

MOB RULE

Mary Ann Sieghart on taking part in TV's tacky monarchy debate

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BEST FOR BOOKS

Roger Scruton on the invention of heritage
Peter Ackroyd on the mysteries of London, Tania Glyde on A.L. Kennedy, P36-37

THE ART OF POLITICAL LOBBYING

Tim Bell, fixer to the famous

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BEST FOR JOBS

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Branson ponders future flights after engineer saves crew

By ANDREW PIERCE

RICHARD BRANSON will return to Britain and his family today after the near-fatal collapse of his attempt to be the first man to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon.

The latest brush with death for the 46-year-old millionaire entrepreneur has badly shaken his confidence and has put a big question mark over any planned future daredevil adventures.

Mr Branson said that Alex Ritchie, the expedition engineer, saved their lives by clambering onto the roof of the capsule at 10,000ft to jettison a fuel tank. His action saved the craft from being dashed against mountains after what was described as a terrifying roller-coaster ride.

Mr Ritchie said: "I crawled out on the capsule top and sorted it out. All I took with me was a parachute and some straps so I could be lashed to the top of the capsule. It's all a blur. I only did what I had to do."

Mr Branson added: "I remember, when things were going wrong, thinking to myself: 'If I ever get out of this alive, never again.' But one soon forgets about that. I shall obviously have to talk it over with my family."

He delayed his arrival in Britain so that he could thank representatives of the Algerian Government in person for their co-operation and help in rescuing the *Virgin Global Challenger* crew from their desert landing near the Bechar military base in the northwest of the country.

Mr Branson and his fellow crew members, Per Lindstrand, also 46, and Mr Ritchie, 52, were driven from their grounded capsule by a senior local politician who lives near the military base.

They were guests at his home where they rested before flying to Algiers where they were due to meet senior officials of the Algerian Government. They were flown in the Cessna jet that had been due to track the *Challenger's* progress in its planned 18-day voyage around the globe.

A spokesman for the *Virgin Challenger* operation said last night: "The Algerian Government did everything in its power to ensure the crew were made as comfortable as possible and to ease their return to Britain. Richard wanted to express his personal gratitude to the Algerian Government."

When Mr Branson returns, he will go to a press conference at the *Global Challenger's* London communications centre. But he is unlikely to disclose the answer to the question everyone is asking: will he return to Morocco for a third time to try to recreate the global race?

Mr Branson, speaking on the telephone from Algeria, said: "I need to talk to my family before I make any decision. There has to be a lot of discussion. There are many things I will need to take into consideration. I will not make the decision on my own."

His wife, Joan, is unlikely to leave him in much doubt about her view. She expressed serious worries about the global challenge, which can only have been reinforced by the near-disastrous outcome.

Fight for life, page 9

Keegan was forced to go by bankers

By JASON NISSE, ASSISTANT BUSINESS EDITOR

KEVIN KEEGAN resigned as manager of Newcastle United yesterday after bankers forced his hand to allow the club's £150 million stock market flotation to go ahead smoothly.

The former England captain had twice threatened to step down — once last summer and again before Christmas — and each time he was dissuaded. But NatWest Markets, the merchant bank backing the flotation, told the club at a secret meeting in Leeds on Tuesday that if Keegan really wanted to go, he must go now.

The bankers said that the club should not risk his departure while its shares were being marketed in the City. It would also have to disclose in the flotation prospectus that Keegan had said he might quit, or face the prospect of legal action.

After the meeting, Keegan was told that if he intended to resign, he would have to do so straight away — so ending a five-year reign that took Newcastle from the bottom of the old second division to the top of the Premiership. Yesterday Keegan said in a statement: "It was my decision and my decision alone. I offered my resignation at the end of last season but was persuaded by the board to stay. I feel I have taken the club as far as I can and that it would be in the best interests of all concerned if I resigned."

By doing so, he has almost certainly given up a "fat cat" bonus when the club is floated. Recent share issues for Sheffield United and Sunderland have given the team managers share options — and Peter Reid, 31, Sunderland, holds shares worth £2.8 million.

NatWest, whose chief executive, Derek Wanless, is a lifelong Newcastle fan, said that the float would go ahead as planned, with an announcement next week. But it will do with neither of Newcastle's driving forces on board: the chairman Sir John Hall is also set to resign, probably to be replaced by a leading North-east businessman. Sir John was said to be out of the country on holiday yesterday and no date has been given for his return.

Keegan's departure sent fans flocking to St James's Park in their hundreds. Many were in tears, others chanted the manager's name and others unfurled a banner reading: "Please stay Kevin — we all believe in you. Please don't go."

Les Russell, the Lord Mayor, said: "This is a black day for Newcastle. I join hundreds of thousands of fans in deeply regretting Kevin's painful decision. I hope he will reconsider."

John Regan, secretary of Newcastle United Independent Supporters' Association, said: "It's dreadful news. It's worse than hearing that the Queen has died. Not everyone on Tyneside is a monarchist, but everyone is a Keeganite. Keegan brought pride back to Newcastle, the people of Tyneside worship him. What he has achieved in the last five years is nothing short of remarkable — and he was the man to lead us to further success."

Victoria Rickaby, a 16-year-old drama student, agreed.



Under pressure: Newcastle's plans for stock market flotation meant Keegan had to decide whether to carry out threats to resign as manager

"How can Kevin Keegan leave us? He is God around here. He is even bigger than God. He is the life of Newcastle. People name their children after him — there are even dogs named after him."

Even Tony Blair joined the tributes, saying: "He's a great guy and it's a great shame."

The gloom surrounding St James's Park yesterday was in sharp contrast to the euphoria that surrounded the £15 million signing of Alan Shearer last year. That capped a £60 million spending spree that brought the fans and success to Newcastle, but no trophies.

Keegan, 45, first offered his resignation after his team's 12-point lead at the top of the Premiership was overhauled by Manchester United, but the board told him to stay.

Sir John nevertheless issued a thinly-veiled warning that Newcastle must win something this year, and although Shearer's arrival lifted spirits for a while, the team began to wobble before Christmas and Keegan again offered to go. He was again persuaded to change his mind — this time by Sir John's son, Douglas, who is also a board member — and Newcastle promptly beat Tottenham 7-1.

Yesterday, however, Keegan was nowhere to be seen and his team was being run by his deputy Terry McDermott and coach Arthur Cox. McDermott said: "Kevin wants to pursue other fields outside football and good luck to him. Only Kevin can say whether he will ever come back into football. He certainly won't in the near future, I can guarantee that. My gut feeling is that he probably won't get back into football again. But you can never say never."

There has been mention of mental illness, or some kind of sickness but that could not be further from the truth. He beat me at head tennis on Friday so he certainly wasn't ill. He simply wants to do other things outside of football."

Inevitably, there was a wave of speculation as to who would take over at St James's Park. Kenny Dalglish, who took over Keegan's number seven shirt at Liverpool, is a hot favourite — but he also resigned in the midst of a title race when manager of Liverpool, John Toshack, is also a strong contender, having just resigned at Spanish team Deportivo La Coruña.

Ruffled feathers, page 5
Management stress, page 42
Rob Hughes, page 44

Poll climbdown by Milosevic

President Milosevic conceded yesterday that an opposition coalition had won municipal elections in Serbia's second largest city.

Nis was one of 15 areas where Milosevic's Socialist Party annulled election victory by the opposition Zajedno coalition. The decision resulted in a wave of pro-democracy street protests, now in their eighth week.

The Serbian Government's decision followed a justice ministry inquiry.

Rebel radio, page 12

Pneumonia puts Yeltsin in hospital

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin was taken to hospital suffering from pneumonia last night, two weeks after returning to work following major heart surgery.

The Russian leader, who took to his bed earlier this week, had cancelled official engagements when doctors said he had a mild fever and influenza symptoms.

A brief statement issued by his press service last night said medical staff had decided to hospitalize the 65-year-old president for several days after a routine examination.

Mr Yeltsin underwent a quintuple cardiac bypass operation on November 5 after suffering at least two heart attacks within 18 months. He returned to work at the Kremlin just before Christmas.

Renat Akhshurin, the surgeon who led the Russian operating team, said there was no connection between the President's illness and his heart condition.

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, took over the country's daily administration during Mr Yeltsin's operation.

Blair set to rule out a top tax rate of 50p

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR has ruled out a 50p top rate of tax to reassure voters that a Labour government will not penalise the better off to pay for costly spending programmes.

Both Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, insisted yesterday that they had no hidden spending commitments and no secret tax plans as the Labour leader laid claim to the centre ground of politics.

Although Mr Blair did not go as far as personally ruling out a 50p rate yesterday, party sources said he and Mr Brown had settled their differences and agreed not to raise the existing 40p band for top taxpayers. An announcement formally ruling out a 50p top rate will be made in the next few weeks, they said.

Mr Blair said yesterday: "There is no single spending commitment that requires an increase in personal taxation."

Brandishing a new document which lays out Labour's plans for government as he launched his party's pre-election campaign, he said: "The programme we have got is all properly costed and funded."

Showing signs that he has been rattled by Tory jibes of Labour's hidden spending commitments costing up to £30 billion, he added: "There are no uncosted or unfunded spending proposals, no concealed tax increases."

"Where we plan to spend money, we say where it comes from. There is no evasion, no double dealing, no hidden agenda," he declared.

But Mr Blair also hinted that his party's plans for a 10p starting rate of tax were now no more than an aspiration, which was unlikely to be achieved in a first year of a Labour government.

Mr Brown confirmed that he would set out all his proposed tax rates before the general election manifesto so that voters knew exactly how much tax they would have to pay under a Labour government.

The only spending commitments were Labour's £3 billion programme to get 250,000 unemployed youngsters back into work. Other programmes would be funded by redeploying existing resources, he said.

Mr Brown, who had been pressing for a new top rate of tax last autumn, will make three keynote speeches on the economy within the next six weeks starting on January 20, where he is expected to spell out tax details.

While he may propose measures to close tax loopholes and raise revenue through other means, he made clear yesterday that he would not propose rises in VAT. "We have no wish to increase VAT," he said.

Mr Blair's refusal to publicly rule out a 50p rate prompted speculation that Mr Brown was still resisting the move. It is known that the Shadow Chancellor had been unhappy about some aspects leading up to yesterday's presentation.

Party sources suggested that Mr Blair was anxious to get as much mileage as possible out of the decision by staging the announcement over several weeks to maximise favourable headlines.

The decision not to proceed with a 50p top rate of tax follows a bitter struggle within

Continued on page 2, col 6

Peter Riddell, page 2

Knife attack by boy of 10 on woman

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A 10-YEAR-OLD boy was arrested yesterday after an argument outside a primary school in which a woman's eye was pierced by a kitchen knife. Detectives said the woman, who had internal stitches to the eye, was fortunate not to have been blinded.

The incident occurred in the street outside Lakeside primary school, Doncaster. The woman, aged 32, had approached the boy on Tuesday after her son of nine complained that the boy had assaulted him.

An argument followed in which the boy allegedly picked up a piece of wood and hit her on the neck and chest, said Inspector Paul Cropley.

Two other mothers wrestled the wood from the boy. He ran off, only to return with a knife from the kitchen of a nearby house.

Insp Cropley said: "As he came towards the group another woman tied a jumper around her arm to stop him and try to get the knife off him. It was thrown towards the woman with whom the boy had earlier argued and it hit her in the left eye."

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Gummer bans wildfowling as cold snap persists

THE Government is to impose a two-week ban on the shooting of ducks, geese and other wildfowl from tomorrow to help birds survive the cold weather.

As the chill persisted, animal welfare groups said that goldfish and frogs could die from lack of oxygen in frozen garden ponds. The shallowness of garden ponds could be a threat to ornamental species, the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals said.

"The best way of helping the fish is to melt a hole in the ice by placing a pan of hot water gently on the surface," Charlotte Morrissey, of the RSPCA, said. "It is important to avoid breaking the ice as chunks can break off and damage the fish."

Jim Foster, of the charity Frog Life, said: "We expect to get quite a few reports of frog deaths. The main threat is to adult males which

hibernate in the mud at the bottom of ponds and will run out of oxygen and die within five days if ponds are frozen over."

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, signed the order banning wildfowl shooting yesterday under a procedure triggered when there have been 13 consecutive days of frozen or snow-covered ground. The birds protected are: mallard, teal, widgeon, pintail, tufted duck, pochard, shoveler, gadwall, goldeneye, pinkfooted geese, greylag geese, Canada geese, whitefronted geese, golden plover, woodcock, snipe, coot and moorhen.

Frozen water and ground in the estuaries and marshy habitats are severely hampering their ability to find food. Many birds are so weakened they may not survive the winter even if spared death by shooting.

Mr Gummer decided to act after

A two-week ban on shooting birds is designed to help them survive the freezing conditions, which are also threatening fish and frogs in icy ponds. Michael Hornsby and Michael Horsnell report

consulting the Joint Nature Conservation Committee, representing government wildlife agencies, and the British Association for Shooting and Conservation, the voice of the shooting lobby. About 20,000 wildfowling will be affected by the ban.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds welcomed the ban and appealed to the public to avoid disturbing flocks of wild birds. "When the birds are so tired, the main risk is not so much death by shooting as the extra energy the birds expend when flying round after being disturbed by the shooters and their guns," Mike Everett,

a spokesman, said. The RSPB said householders could help by putting out suitable food in the early morning and again in the afternoon. Fatty foods are best to provide energy.

"Grated cheese is a favourite with robins and can help small birds like wrens, while fat-rich peanuts in hanging feeders will attract tits, finches and sparrows," the RSPB said. "Pastry is popular and shredded suet will be eaten by a variety of birds."

The Swan Lifetime charity at Eton Wick, in Berkshire, is looking after swans rescued from parts of

the Thames that have frozen. Wendy Gray, a volunteer helper, said: "Some swans get frozen into the ice overnight and cannot move their legs."

"We bring them in and keep them here for a couple of days, feeding them up if necessary. Generally, however, swans are good at resisting the cold."

Pat Morris, chairman of the Mammal Society, said that if the cold lasted for several weeks squirrels and small aquatic animals such as water voles could come under pressure. "If water is frozen, voles cannot dive to escape predators such as mink or easily get at food locked up in the ice," he said.

"Squirrels will find it hard to dig up buried stores of acorns if the ground is frozen."

But hibernating mammals such as dormice, hedgehogs and bats will benefit from the big freeze,

according to Dr Morris, because consistently cold weather lowers their metabolic rate, enabling them to conserve fat supplies. Foxes will also not mind the cold because they will find water birds in particular easier to catch.

The National Grid reported an all-time record peak demand of 49,730 megawatts on Tuesday night. Weather conditions were less severe than over Christmas and the New Year, but demand was lower then because of the seasonal shut-down of industry.

John Tomlinson, the company's power system control manager, said: "Industry was back to full operation following the holiday period and we predicted what has turned out to be the highest ever demand, and met it with generation to spare."

Fifty-seven power stations helped to meet the needs of more than 20

million customers. Electricity was also supplied from Scotland and France.

The Department of Social Security said that cold weather payments had topped £33 million since the cold spell began, involving more than four million payments, a record number.

Fears that the partial thaw which occurred on Monday might cancel out payments this week were dispelled by the department which said that payments are based on a weekly average temperature set at 0C or below.

The London Weather Centre said that temperatures will remain below freezing today in the South, rising to 3-4C in the far north, as easterly winds from central Europe persist. Light snowfalls are expected in many areas.

Forecast, page 22

European court fines rebound on Major

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN and other members of the European Union are to face heavy fines if they disobey the European Court of Justice. Under a sliding scale, Britain could be required to pay up to £430,000 a day for defying the court while Germany and France would face a higher maximum penalty.

The procedure, agreed by the European Commission yesterday, prompted anger from Conservative Eurosceptics although it merely completed machinery created on British demand during negotiations for the Maastricht treaty in 1991.

At that time, John Major wanted to give the court power to ensure that recalcitrant member states could not get away with flouting EU rules.

So far the system, provided under article 171 of the treaty, has not been invoked as national sensitivities among member states caused the Commission to move slowly in drawing up the penalty formula.

The Commission's effective go-ahead for the fines is an embarrassment for the British Government as it is now seeking, alone in Europe, to rein in the powers of the Luxembourg court at the present review of the Maastricht treaty. David Heathcoat-Amory, the former Tory minister who resigned over Europe last year, said the notion of introducing fines for breaches of regulations was promoted by the Government with the aim of deterring further regulation-making, and of securing proper enforcement. "But we now have just as many rules, and the fines idea is rather rebounding on us. We will face these fines for quite often technical breaches of the rules."

John Redwood, the former Tory leadership challenger, said: "Swinging new fines of up to £3 million a week can now be imposed on Britain by the European court if it disagrees with what we are doing. This shows why we should not give the Commission any more power to control and monitor our economy."

The fines will not be retroactive. Officials expect the system to be introduced within weeks. The immediate target will be Germany and Italy, which are at odds with rulings on environmental protection.

The environment and the single market are likely to be the main areas in which fines will be sought. Germany has ignored court rulings on ground water, surface water and bird protection and there are two pending cases in which Italy has ignored legislation on waste disposal. No cases are immediately pending against Britain, which has one of the best records among member states in implementing EU legislation.

Under the system, the Commission will be able to apply to the court to impose a fine against a state that disobeys a judgement against it. The Luxembourg judges will have the final say on the size of the penalty, but they are expected to apply the scale devised by the Commission. This starts with a basic fine of £400 a day, which will be multiplied by factors to account for the gravity of the breach, the length of time it has lasted and the relative wealth of the state.

Britain would face a minimum daily fine of £72,000. France and Germany, which have bigger economies, face higher fines while Italy will pay slightly less. It will take about a year for the court to fix a fine after application by the Commission.



Sir George: he called John Major a dummy

New move to unseat sceptic

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE veteran Euro-sceptic Sir George Young is facing fresh calls from within his local Tory association to stand down at the next election. A motion of no confidence in the Reigate MP has been tabled amid renewed accusations that he has been disloyal to John Major.

More than 120 local Tories wrote last week to the association, demanding a special meeting after Sir George attacked the Prime Minister in a newspaper article before Christmas. Reigate's executive council will meet tonight and is likely to fix a date of January 30.

Sir George saw off a deselection threat last June when he won the support of 311 members to 206 to remain their candidate. But some local Tories believe he has broken a promise made then to remain loyal.

In the *Sunday Express* article, Sir George described the Prime Minister as a "ventriloquist's dummy" to Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor.



Tony Blair tells the press yesterday that Labour has captured the centre ground

Fine, but how will Labour meet even the Tory spending targets?

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

LABOUR is trying to reconcile two potentially incompatible pledges — that it can make a real difference, and that its plans need not mean any increase in personal taxes. Yesterday's launch was better at establishing broad campaign themes than in answering this predicament.

Campaign documents are often regarded as just partisan propaganda and therefore ignored. But yesterday's 19-page *Leading Britain into the Future* deserves more serious treatment. It is largely the product of Tony Blair's own pen, written during his Christmas holiday in Ireland, and it is revealing about Labour's approach. There is no reference to socialism anywhere. Instead, it says: "New Labour is firmly rooted in the centre ground of British politics, and so are our policies."

Several times, it scorns an ideological approach and presents Labour as "the practical party" drawing ideas from the "so-called" Left and Right. The document, the Union Flag

patriotically waving on the front, talks of seeking "the broadest possible support" and "reaching out" to people of all parties. Each page has a little inset proclaiming "the battleground" with four main points: "The future not the past... £2. Strong leadership not drift... £2. Education is our number one priority..."

Mr Blair is in self-confident form yesterday. As he said: "For the first time in a generation, Labour goes into a general election with real confidence." But can that be translated into successful government? Labour is at pains to present itself as responsible, resisting "unreasonable public sector pay demands", making Bank of England decisions on monetary policy more accountable and free from short-term political manipulation, and claiming there are no increased or unfunded spending proposals and no con-

cealed tax rises. The Tories have raised valid questions about the financing of Labour's early pledges on reducing class sizes, cutting hospital waiting lists and getting 250,000 under-25s into work. Will sufficient money be available, and how much relies on one-off devices? But, in general, claims about vast, £30 billion spending commitments are ludicrously over the top. The real issue is different: the Tories have been able to contain the overall level of spending and taxes, as Labour seeks to do, by cutting some programmes to finance the inevitable upward pressures in health, education and social security. Financing these existing commitments, not additional ones, is the key.

Labour has opposed most of the Tory expenditure savings — on changing unemployment and sickness benefits, compulsory competitive tendering and increasing private

provision. But without such measures, spending and taxes would be higher. Labour's answers yesterday were unconvincing. Welfare reform and reducing the present fifth of households where no one is earning may produce savings in the long-term, as may a switch from student grants to loans. They will not be sufficient in the short-term.

Labour is caught in a defensive trap, narrowing its options by denying any plans to raise taxes that might lose votes, while brushing aside unavoidable increases in existing spending programmes. In this respect, the endlessly discussed question of a higher top rate of income tax is, while very important symbolically, largely irrelevant to the overall fiscal and economic picture. The reality, denied by Labour and the Tories, is that any post-election Chancellor will face difficult decisions on trimming spending programmes and raising taxes.

PETER RIDDELL

Blair

Continued from page 1
the shadow cabinet about the principle of fairer taxation.

Mr Blair has consistently argued that a rise in the top rate of tax could prove electorally suicidal while other measures, such as reducing tax reliefs — which could bring in the same revenue — would be more palatable.

Robin Cook, the Shadow Foreign Secretary, has been among those arguing for the need to tax the wealthy more heavily to give more to poorer groups, but the 50p tax rate would only have brought in about £1 billion.

Earlier Mr Blair insisted that his party now successfully occupied the centre ground of politics — following a transformation in its ideology and culture.

As the battle lines were drawn for the unofficial election campaign, the Labour leader urged the Prime Minister to stop "faffing about" and call a general election. Contrasting Mr Major's failure to hold his party together with his own successful leadership Mr Blair said: "To the British people I say: in uncertain times Britain cannot afford an uncertain Prime Minister and Britain cannot afford as its Government a party incapable of being led."

But the Tories were quick to stamp on suggestions that Labour would go into the next election with no tax or spending rises. Brian Mahon, the Tory party chairman, told reporters that Labour had failed to publish its detailed tax plans, its national minimum wage, its growth or inflation target.

"Mr Blair has concealed the details of how his policies will work. He won't even answer the basic economic questions. He's trying to con you. That isn't leadership," Dr Mahon said.

Alex Carlile, the Liberal Democrat home affairs spokesman, rounded on the two main parties.

"This election campaign has got to be put back on to a positive footing, with the leaders having an intelligent discussion about policy," he said.

Ulster security increased after IRA attacks police

Security throughout Northern Ireland was stepped up last night to its highest level since the IRA ceasefire was declared in 1994 as troops reinforced police patrols and security barriers were closed in towns across the Province. The move followed an IRA mortar attack on a police patrol in the nationalist Shantallow area of Londonderry on Tuesday night.

Paddy Ward, a former republican terrorist who fled to Canada after defying the leadership of the Irish National Liberation Army, has been deported to London by a Toronto court. Ward claimed his life would be in danger if he returned home.

Inquiry into HMSO sale

A formal inquiry into the £54 million sale of part of Her Majesty's Stationery Office is to be carried out by the National Audit Office. Concern about October's sale has dwelt on the price secured by a consortium run by Electra Fleming, and headed by Rupert Pennant-Rea, the former Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. The inquiry will study the chaotic state of HMSO accounts before the sale.

Half adults are poor readers

Almost half the adults in Britain lack the reading skills necessary to use a bus timetable or to follow instructions to assemble a bicycle, an international report is expected to say later in the year. The research was carried out by the Office for National Statistics several months ago but the results will not be published until next summer. Labour demanding that the information be published before the election.

Minister's house invaded

Ten Newbury bypass protesters were arrested after they dug up the garden of Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, to build a mock road. About 20 demonstrators marked the first anniversary of the protest by invading Sir George's home in Cockfield, Berkshire. Some climbed on to the roof and smashed banners protesting against government transport policies.

Overture for opera school

The foundation stone for Scotland's first opera school has been laid in Glasgow. The Alexander Gibson School will be based at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and is due to open at the end of the year to coincide with the academy's 150th anniversary. At the ceremony, Dr Philip Ledger, the new school's principal, said it would provide a "splendid home for our opera students".

Threat to safari park cats

A safari park's big cats may be put to sleep after a court decided to wind up the company that owns it. The threat to 30 lions and tigers at Causeway Safari Park, near Ballymoney, Co Antrim, came after the decision in the High Court in Belfast, following a petition from Customs and Excise for non-payment of VAT. The failure of the IRA's ceasefire has been cited as keeping tourists away.

Train poetry back on track

Poems are to be reintroduced in commuter trains in Dublin after a campaign by the pressure group Poetry in Motion. Verse first appeared in carriages ten years ago but lapsed last year with the sale of the Dublin Area Rapid Transport company's advertising franchise. Space will be set aside in a section of all carriages for works by international and Irish writers.

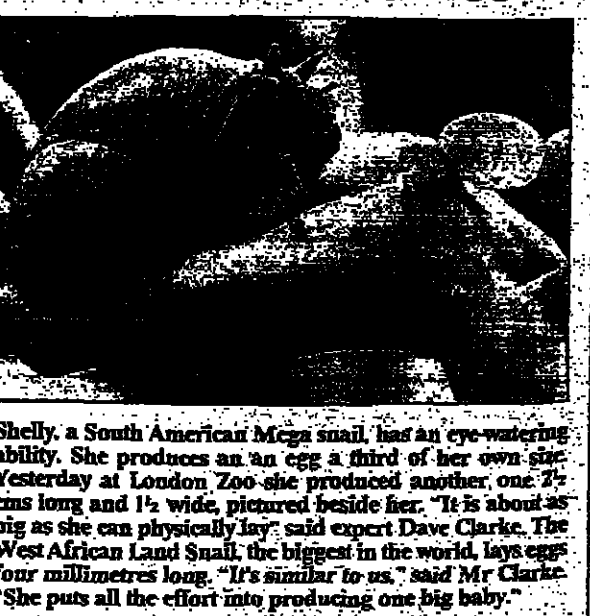
Hearing over war crimes

The first man to face prosecution in Britain for alleged atrocities committed in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe during the war appeared at the Old Bailey yesterday for a pre-trial hearing before Mr Justice Potts. Symon Serafinowicz, 86, is accused of killing three unknown Jews in Belorussia between November 1941 and March 1942. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Queen honours 'The Globe'

The Queen will attend a celebration to mark the completion of *The Globe* theatre this summer, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. She and the Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Shakespeare Globe Trust, will see a performance of *Triumphs and Mirth* on June 12 that will be the highlight of a two-week festival. Sir Michael Perry, chairman of the trust, said: "We are extremely honoured and thrilled."

Snail produces mega egg



Shelly, a South American Mega snail, has an eye-watering ability. She produces an egg a third of her own size. Yesterday at London Zoo she produced another one: 7cm long and 1 1/2 wide, pictured beside her. "It is about as big as she can physically lay," said expert Dave Clarke. The West African Land Snail, the biggest in the world, lays eggs four millimetres long. "It's similar to us," said Mr Clarke. "She puts all the effort into producing one big baby."

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A VACCINE designed to protect against malaria has passed its first test with distinction. Six out of seven volunteers given the vaccine, developed by SmithKline Beecham, were protected against the bites of infected mosquitoes, whereas all those in a control group developed the disease.

limited success, and none has yet been able to control infections in Africa, where most of the sufferers are.

The trial of the new vaccine is reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine* by scientists from SmithKline Beecham and the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Washington, DC. It involved three groups of volunteers who were given different formulations of an experimental vaccine, and a control group who were left unprotected.

They were then exposed to the bites of mosquitoes carrying the parasite

that passes on the infection. In the group which received the most complex formulation of the vaccine, six out of seven were protected. In groups given less complex formulations, only slight protection against infection was observed.

Yesterday SmithKline Beecham said that this is the first time that an experimental vaccine with scope for further development has achieved a high degree of protection against the malaria parasite. The vaccine is based on a protein that lies on the surface of the parasite's cells: such proteins vary

greatly in different areas, so a practical vaccine may need to include other proteins as well.

A series of clinical trials, including a field trial in West Africa, are to begin in the next few months to test the vaccine more widely. Every year 300-500 million people catch malaria, the great majority in sub-Saharan Africa. The disease causes between 1.5 and 2.7 million deaths every year, most among children. Cases in Britain are rare, but not unknown, occurring among travellers who have visited malaria-prone areas.

Tribunal hears race bias claim

Scots and English clash in a legal Bannockburn

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE spirits of Bannockburn, Flora Macdonald and Robert Burns were evoked at an Edinburgh tribunal yesterday to show that the Scots are fundamentally different from the English.

The case is being brought by one of Scotland's top policemen, Graham Power, 49, the Yorkshire-born Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian and Borders Police. He claims that he was left off the shortlist for the post of Chief Constable in the Northern Constabulary, based at Inverness, because he is English.

The Northern Joint Police Board denies discrimination. At a preliminary hearing by an industrial tribunal yesterday, the board's counsel argued that the case could not be brought under the Race Relations Act because Scots and English have the same national and ethnic origins.

Peter Grant-Hutchinson, a Scottish advocate for the board, said that few Scots nowadays would agree with a 1972 House of Lords ruling by Lord Simon of Glaisdale: "The Scots are a nation because of Bannockburn and Flodden, Culloden and the pipes at Lucknow, because of Jenny Geddes and Flora Macdonald, because of frugal living and respect for learning, because of Robert Burns and Walter Scott."

"So, too, the English are a nation because Norman, Angevin and Tudor monarchs forged themselves, because their land is mostly sea-girt, because of the common law and of gifts for poetry and parliamentary government, because despite the Wars of the Roses and Old Trafford and Headingley, Yorkshireman and Lancastrian feel

more in common than in difference and are even prepared at a pinch to extend their sense of community to southern folk."

Mr Grant-Hutchinson argued that because Scots and English are British citizens, the case could not be brought. He said that a shared pride in the National Health Service, the welfare state and the events of the Second World War bound Scots and English together and were more important than separate histories prior to the Act of Union or national football teams.

"It would be going far too far to suggest that England and Scotland have different racial origins. That is not what the 1976 Act intended," he said.

Karon Monaghan, an English barrister appointed by the Commission for Racial Equality, which is backing Mr Power, said that Lord Simon's ruling stood. She quoted him as saying: "By the Act of Union, English and Scots lost their separate nationalities, but they retained their separate nationhood and their descendants have thereby retained their national origins."

Ms Monaghan said: "These days judges have race awareness training and are unlikely to use the stereotypes used by Lord Simon. But the House of Lords sensed a difference between the Scots and the English, the Scots and the English sense a difference and there is not a single legal authority which differentiates from that view."

Miss Monaghan said the Act defined discrimination as treating someone differently from others because of race, ethnic or national origins. Although Scots and English

shared a common citizenship, they had different national origins and discrimination on these grounds was covered by the 1976 Act.

She quoted a Lords ruling in 1983 by Lord Fraser of Tullybelton that for a group to be considered an ethnic group under the Race Relations Act, a community must regard itself, and be regarded by others, as having a long-shared history distinguishing it from other groups and a cultural tradition of its own. It could also have in common a geographical origin, language, literature or religion, or it could be a minority oppressed or dominant within a larger community.

Ms Monaghan argued that the Scots had a shared history different from that of the English and a separate cultural tradition. "We don't celebrate Hogmanay or Burns Night, and you may not enjoy Morris dancing or May Day as much as the English," she told the tribunal.

She said it was even possible that the Scots could be construed as an oppressed minority. "You get a government you don't vote for and after last night, a monarchy which you don't want."

Spencer Patrick, chairman of the tribunal board, said that the three panel members had already agreed that Scots could discriminate against English and vice versa. The hearing was to determine whether such discrimination was covered by the Act.

A ruling on the issue would be given as soon as possible, Mr Patrick said. If the panel decides that the Act does cover relations between the Scots and English, Mr Power's case will be heard at a later date.



Lord Borthwick, right, and his teacher brother, who said: "I'm not a great one for pomp and ceremony"

No regrets, says twin who was 20 minutes late for a peerage

By Tony Armstrong

IT WAS the ultimate accident of birth. A mere 20 minutes separated the arrival of twin boys at an Edinburgh nursing home in November 1940.

But that was enough to ensure that this week John Borthwick is the twenty-fourth Lord Borthwick of Thirsk, Baron of Heriotmuir and Hereditary Falconer for Scotland. And that the Honourable James Borthwick remains a senior lecturer in engineering at the Jewell and Esk Valley College, Portobello.

His father, the twenty-third Lord Borthwick who died aged 90, was buried on Tuesday in the family vault in the chapel at Borthwick Castle, Midlothian. But the younger twin, who lives in the former shepherd's cottage of a property he used to farm near the Borders village of Oxton, has no regrets about the 20 minutes that deprived him of one of Scotland's oldest titles.

He said: "I'm quite relieved not to be Lord Borthwick. I'm not a great one for pomp and ceremony and I'm very happy with what I'm doing. I get a lot of satisfaction out of teaching." He is

married to Elspeth, a former Edinburgh nursing sister, and they have a son Malcolm, 23, who is a political consultant in London.

He added: "We are a loving family and I have everything that I want. My brother and I have always been very close. And we still are."

The new Lord Borthwick has been running the family's Borders estate for years. His work remains the same, but inheriting the title means an eventual move out of a bungalow in the village of Heriot, where he lives with his wife Adelaide and student daughters Georgina and Alexandra. Their new home a mile up the road will be the 37-roomed Crookston House, an 18th century Scottish baronial mansion where his father had lived alone with the help of a housekeeper since the death of his wife in 1976.

The new Lord Borthwick said yesterday of the 20 minutes that brought his title: "It has never ever caused any problem between my brother and me, and never will. We are joint executors of the estate and it will be divided. I already own the home farm and Borthwick Castle. As far

as the peerage goes, it is very difficult when this sort of mantle is thrust upon you.

"I would eventually like to take my seat in the House of Lords and I would probably have something to contribute on agricultural issues."

The twins were both pupils at Gordonstoun but followed different paths when they left. The elder studied at the Edinburgh College of Agriculture while the younger spent five years as an apprentice fitter at the Lochnhead engine works of McTaggart and Scott before going to Heriot Watt University. He then worked in South Africa as a goldmining engineer, farmed at Oxton for five years and has been a college lecturer since 1985.

When the twins were born, there was no certain prospect of any peerage. Although their father John had been born in Borthwick Castle, he was a member of a secondary line of the family and the ancient Borthwick title dating back to the 15th century had lain dormant since 1910.

The late Lord Borthwick, a regular Army officer and Normandy campaign veteran, fought for more than 40

years to prove his claim to the title in a case which even experts described as complex beyond belief. Then a genealogist discovered key documents in a cardboard box beneath a billiard table at Crookston House. The claim was won in 1986.

The title is now alive again completing a link with Borthwicks who escorted St Margaret to Edinburgh for her marriage to Malcolm Canmore in 1069. It was at Borthwick that Mary Queen of Scots and Bothwell sought sanctuary from nobles seeking to capture them. In 1650 Oliver Cromwell laid siege to the castle after the battle of Dunbar, eventually forcing the surrender of the then Lord Borthwick and his royalist garrison. Today the castle is leased as an hotel and conference centre. Guests can stay in Mary Queen of Scots' bedroom.

As the real family home, Crookston House, awaits its working owner, there is a compensation for his twin. Because the lord has two daughters, male primogeniture means that the younger brother's son is now the heir to the title.

Navy to cut hull in last hope for world race yachtsman

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE Australian Navy was planning to try to cut a hole in the upturned hull of a British sailor's yacht early this morning to see if he was still alive.

The crew of the frigate *Adelaide*, which was due to arrive at Sydney Bullimore's capsized craft in the Southern Ocean late last night will try to establish physical contact with the missing yachtsman, who may be sheltering in an air pocket. If high winds and seas were to prevent the *Adelaide's* crew from approaching the yacht, they might wait for the arrival of the *Sanko Phoenix*, a Liberian-registered tanker, and try to winch the yacht *Evide Challenger* on to it.

The *Adelaide's* captain, Raydon Gates, said they would spend 12 hours searching the area, 1,400 miles southwest of Perth. "If he's in an immersion suit and out of the water in that upturned yacht he has a reasonable chance of still being alive when I reach him."

Hopes of finding Bullimore, 56, alive, however, were fading after he failed to respond to sonar listening and tracking devices which were dropped alongside his craft by an Australian airforce rescue plane earlier in the day. It was hoped that the buoys, which make a loud noise, would bring a response.

Colonel Andrew Reynolds, of the Australian Defence Force, said: "Basically we were hoping that the microphones attached to the buoys would pick up any noises coming from within the hull and transmit them back. So far we've heard nothing."

"This either means there's no one in the hull, that he hasn't heard the noise or he's dead. We have to say that it doesn't look hopeful." The *Adelaide* had earlier yesterday been forced to abandon plans to send a helicopter to pick up French yachtsman Thierry Dubois, who capsized ten miles from Bullimore as both took part in the Vendée Globe round-the-world race. The navy hoped to make a second attempt late last night.

A third yachtsman in the race was reported in trouble last night. Organisers in Paris said they had lost track of the satellite beacon of Canadian Gerry Rous and he was not answering radio calls.

The French yachtsman Raphael Dinielli, who was rescued by British sailor Peter Goss in the Southern Ocean over Christmas, arrived in Hobart, Tasmania, yesterday and paid tribute to his saviour.



A case brought by Graham Power, left, an Englishman seeking a chief constable's post in Scotland, was haunted by the spirits of Macdonald and Burns

Research offers explanation for memory and concentration lapses

Women's brains shrink in pregnancy

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

WOMEN who claim to be losing their minds during pregnancy can take some comfort from new scientific evidence for the phenomenon which suggests that they can expect the full return of their faculties soon after giving birth.

Researchers have found that the brain shrinks during the late stages of pregnancy and takes up to six months to regain its full size. It may explain why many pregnant women complain of memory lapses and difficulties in concentrating.

The findings, disclosed yesterday at a meeting of the Physiological Society held at Sheffield University, have come from a team at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School in west London. The researchers have been taking three

dimensional images of the brains of pregnant women.

Anita Holdcroft, an anaesthetist at the school and a member of the team, said that the memory and concentration difficulties experienced by some pregnant women and new mothers may be linked to a shrinking brain. "These are very early findings but it may be that the two features are linked," she told the magazine *New Scientist*.

Yesterday Professor Graeme Bydder, another member of the team, said that there were several theories about the possible causes. One is that pregnancy creates fluid imbalances in the body. Another, more controversial, theory is that the foetus is somehow taking lipids and proteins from its mother's brain to build its own.

"The foetus can be seen as quite a vicious parasite... it needs to create

its own brain," said Professor Bydder of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging unit at Hammersmith Hospital.

The researchers used a magnetic resonance scanner to examine the brains of ten healthy women at three stages: towards the end of pregnancy, six to eight weeks after delivery and up to six months later.

The pituitary gland, which releases a large number of hormones including some involved in reproduction, increased in size. But the brain shrank, returning to normal several months after delivery.

The researchers believe that the decrease in brain size is due to individual cells shrinking rather than a reduction in the number of cells. Professor Bydder said although the human brain became smaller as people aged, there was no evidence that more brain cells were lost during

pregnancy than when a woman was not pregnant.

The decision to scan the brains of pregnant women came after research into pre-eclampsia. This syndrome, which occurs in 10 per cent of pregnancies and causes up to ten deaths a year, involves high blood pressure and swelling in the face, legs and arms. Dr Holdcroft said the team had assumed that the brain also swelled up in those with pre-eclampsia. But the studies suggested that the opposite occurred and was likely to be a normal feature of pregnancy.

Professor Bydder said the team hoped to scan the brains of women during menstruation to see if there were any changes in size. Other projects include scanning the brains of men and women after a couple of glasses of wine to see whether suspected changes in size can be detected.

Payout for patient who did not agree to abortion

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

A WOMAN whose unborn baby was aborted without her permission during a hysterectomy was given a five-figure out-of-court settlement from a hospital yesterday.

Jane Henson, 43, blames the abortion for the breakdown of her 19-year marriage. King's Mill Hospital in Sutton-in-Ashfield, Nottinghamshire, which has been involved in similar cases in recent years, now carries out scans before gynaecological operations.

Mrs Henson, a building society manageress from Ravenshead, had been unaware that she was pregnant when she had the operation. She had had a 22-year-old son

from a previous marriage but no children with her husband David, a teacher.

Mrs Henson said yesterday: "I have to live with the death of my baby, day in, day out. It's something I can never forget."

The couple would both have liked to have a baby, she said. "Who knows what a difference a child would have made? Dave had the chance of a part-time job and it would have worked out well, but it wasn't to be and instead our 14-year marriage broke down."

"I didn't take out the action to win compensation. No amount can compensate for the loss of a child. I started the action in a bid to stop the same

tragedy happening to another woman." She had been approximately eight weeks pregnant, her solicitor, Patrick Booth, said.

After Mrs Henson's case, a woman called Barbara Whiten who had had a hysterectomy was told by her consultant gynaecologist — who did not treat Mrs Henson — "By the way, I think you may have been pregnant," according to a case heard by her Nottingham Crown Court two years ago. He was acquitted of performing an illegal abortion.

The hospital then introduced compulsory pregnancy tests on all women undergoing surgery.

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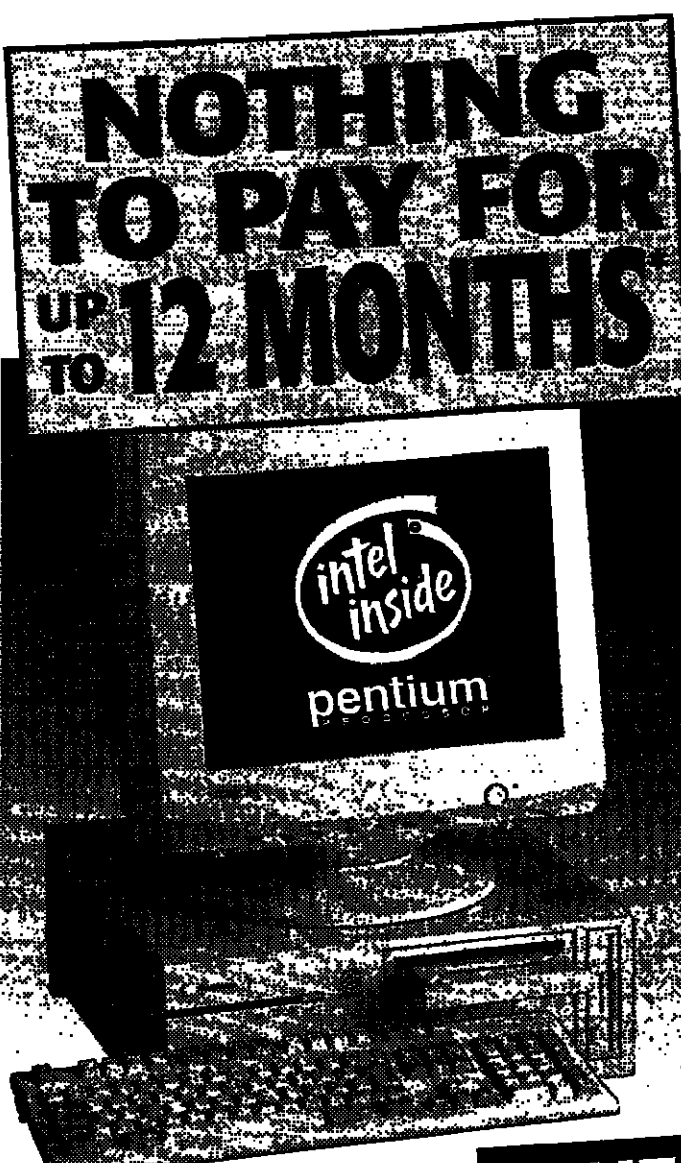
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Thrown to the lions in Carlton's tacky Colosseum



One sacrificial victim: the Druids' King Arthur

"WHAT am I doing here?" was the refrain that pounded in my head all evening. As I looked round the reception room and took in the surreal sight of King Arthur Pen-drageon, head of the Druids, waiting past Bernie Grant and Claire Rayner, while Peter Stringfellow came over to introduce himself to the Bishop of Birmingham, I began to rue the Editor's decision to send me in his place to take part in Tuesday night's television debate on the monarchy.

From the gold sashes worn by our greeters at the door to the bizarre clusters of people in the foyer clutching pikestaffs, I soon began to realise that this "debate" would make Richard and Judy look like *The Brains Trust*.

Had I not been there as a representative of *The Times*, I would have been sorely tempted to

follow Steve Norris's lead. The former Tory minister was sitting on our huge sofa (with Terry Waite, Sir Bernard Ingham, Petronella Wyatt and the Duke of Braganza) watching the first half-hour of the programme. The *Gladiators*-like set was an early warning, but we were still unprepared for the sheer tackiness of the spectacle.

The 3,000-strong audience, who had been bussed in from all over the country, were in the mood to throw us all to the lions. Panelists were booed, hissed, heckled and drowned out. Mr Norris must have realised pretty quickly that one noted adulterer might not last long trying to defend another.

Suddenly he stood up. "I'm not taking part in this," he growled. "It can't be worth £100." While admiring his audacity as we watched him storm off, I could not help mentally



Mary Ann Sieghart, one of the panellists, describes how all attempts to present reasoned arguments were made impossible by an audience baying for blood

congratulating my agent for having negotiated a larger fee.

The producer of our segment of the programme came over to ask what we thought of the show so far. "Crap" was the first word that came into my head. Unfortunately it came out of my mouth, too.

Whether the buses had been packed with crates of lager or the warm-up act had stirred the audience's blood, the atmosphere inside Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre reminded me of a packed

pub late on a Saturday night that is about to break into an ugly brawl. I have never been to a boxing match, but now I can imagine what it must feel like to walk into the ring.

Blood was what the audience wanted. Blood was what the producers offered. The only way, they had calculated, to persuade viewers to keep watching was to inject a sense of danger into the proceedings. Unfortunately this also made any decent argument impossible. Trying to debate the relative merits

of a constitutional monarchy and an elected presidency while the audience and the other panellists behaved as if they were watching *Milwall v Wimbledon* was like whispering into a Force 8 gale.

Not surprisingly, Carlton's poll had discovered that most people would like the Royal Family to pay its own way. A similar percentage would doubtless vote for murderers to be put behind bars. In vain did I try to put the record straight. The family *does* pay its own way: having surrendered the income from the Crown Estates to the Treasury in return for the Civil List, they have ensured that the taxpayer makes a £40 million profit from them each year. In vain did I point out that there were no longer any "hangers-on" getting taxpayers' money: the Queen supports them

all apart from the Duke of Edinburgh and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

But I fear my words were carried off on the wind. The audience was in no mood for rationality. Nor were the producers. They had invited far too many panellists for any one of them to be allowed more than a couple of sentences each. And even those were delivered against the background of heckling, foot-stamping and jeers.

A derogatory adjective has crept into use in our household in the past year or two. It describes the gruesome descent into tackiness of much of ITV's output. "This is so Carlton!" my husband and I often groan, having pressed 3 on the remote control. Tuesday night's debate was Carlton incarnate.

PAUL ROGERS/NEWS TEAM BIRMINGHAM

Palace takes comfort in 66% vote for monarchy

ITV points to ratings in defence of populism

By ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT, AND ALAN HAMILTON

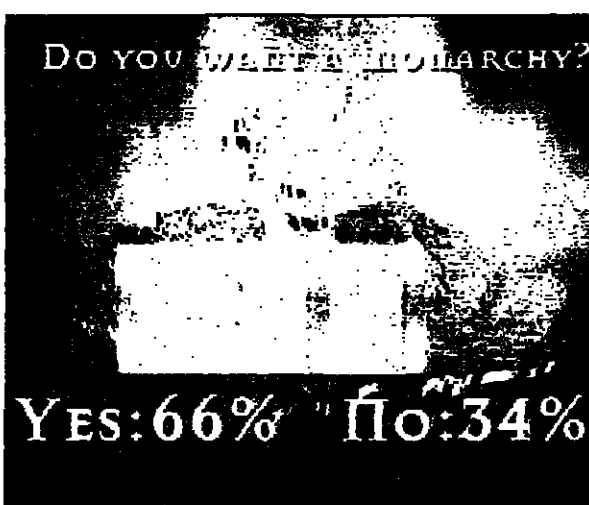
ITV's record-breaking television phone-in programme on the monarchy, which attracted 8.3 million viewers and 2.6 million voters, is likely to be the first of many televised polls on controversial subjects.

The programme's rating was double what most factual shows might expect to reach. Even as the programme ended at 11.10pm, 7.6 million viewers were still tuned in, a staggering figure for that time of night. The response to the phone-in was more than twice the previous record for a television phone-in poll and five times higher than the number of viewers who recently responded to the BBC's telephone poll to find the favourite BBC television programme of all time. Topics likely to feature in future include law and order, health, jobs and Europe.

Paul Corley, controller of network factual programmes at ITV, said of the programme, which came out two-to-one in favour of the monarchy: "It was great to get so many people to vote and to stimulate debate among families all over the country."

Mr Corley rebuffed criticism of the standard of debate: "This programme was specifically trying to give the man and woman in the street their chance to have a say on the subject. This was not meant to be *Newsnight* or a Radio 4 programme of high calibre but with a small audience; this was an ITV-style programme. Commercial television has a responsibility to find out how it can get good ratings from various subjects for debate."

Buckingham Palace was clearly relieved yesterday that the programme's final vote



The 3,000 members of the studio audience that took part in the debate were selected by specialist audience recruitment researchers, who canvassed thousands of people in 25 towns, choosing a representative sample from each. Audiences are not paid for appearing on such programmes because demand for places is usually high, although Carlton, the television company that made *Monarchy* — *The Nation Decides*, paid their travel expenses. Television companies try to ensure that the studio audience for such programmes is representative of the population at large and not biased by too many members of political parties or interest groups.

had gone so heavily in favour of a monarchy. A spokesman said: "The quality of debate left something to be desired, but it was encouraging that there was so much interest in the issues and, after the difficulties of recent years, that so many people took the trouble to show their support for the monarchy."

Although adopting an Olympian detachment from such a populist circus, the Palace is gratified that the majority of republican views gave credit to the Queen for

her dignity and constancy, and it is well aware that the immediate problem remains the public perception of the Prince of Wales.

However, a senior academic yesterday cleared the Prince of Wales of being the cause of Scotland's disillusionment with the Royal Family: 56 per cent of Scots voted against the monarchy after the debate, the only region to do so.

Neil McCormick, Regius Professor in Public Law at Edinburgh University and a senior figure in the Scottish

National Party, said Scotland's position could be explained in the context of the current constitutional debate and as a protest against the remoteness of British institutions, rather than as Calvinistic outrage about the "peccadilloes" of the heir to the throne, as had been claimed by Sir Michael Hirst, chairman of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party.

Steve Clarke, head of factual programmes at Carlton, which made *Monarchy* — *The Nation Decides*, said he was keen to make further programmes. However, as the cost of such programmes is relatively high — about £500,000 — they are unlikely to be screened often.

Although telephone polls cannot be regarded as representative of the nation as a whole, because the callers are self-selecting, Mr Clarke said that the result of Carlton's vote exactly mirrored the findings of a recent MORI poll.

Mr Clarke added that he was disappointed that some of the panellists who appeared on the programme, such as Sir Bernard Ingham, had complained about it. "Some people are used to the sanitised conditions of a closed studio and are not used to having their opinions challenged by a studio audience."

Tim Davis, of the media agency CIA MediaNetwork, said the programme marked a new trend: "The couch potato is becoming a couch commando. Television is increasingly a two-way communication channel."

Magnus Linklater, page 16
Leading article and
Letters, page 17



Roger Cook, left, John Stapleton, Trevor McDonald and Michele Newman before Tuesday's live debate

MORI chief attacks 'voodoo poll' as poor measure of public opinion

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE telephone poll in which 2.6 million people voted was organised in three months by a small team at a company that employs 50 people.

The tele-marketing firm Broadsystem was retained by Carlton Television for an undisclosed sum to arrange the computerised vote. Robert Dirskovski, a sales and promotions executive, said the company had been surprised by the huge numbers who voted. The success paved the way for future "referendums" in the run-up to the general election, he said, and he rejected accusations that the poll had been unscientific.

Last night Bob Worcester, chairman of MORI, the polling organisation, said such votes were not representative of public opinion and had been widely rejected in America, where they have been used for several years.

"These call-in 'voodoo' polls are merely a measure of the ability of pressure groups, in this case, monarchists versus

republicans, to marshal their supporters to ring in over and over again, as happened in both the BBC *Today* programme's vote and the BBC Radio 5 Live and others' phone-in votes on Prince Philip's remarks about the ban on handguns." He said that he had called ten times to test the system and got through on seven.

But Mr Dirskovski said: "The findings were very much in line with those of MORI and with polls in newspapers. In terms of scale has there ever been a survey of public opinion on quite this level. Most pollsters just interview two or three thousand people."

Broadsystem, which is based in Camden, north London, and is a subsidiary of News International which owns *The Times*, started ten years ago and specialises in automated call handling systems.

"We have been bowled over by the response on this occasion," said Mr Dirskovski. "I think there is now a very good case for widening this type of event

to a presidential-style debate or a debate on Europe. After all, a referendum on Europe would be very expensive."

BT is upgrading its technology to cope with the massive demands on its networks created by huge phone polls. The company installed 4,000 circuits, capable of handling 60,000 calls a minute, linked to the Broadsystem computer. But thousands of people still called the operator to complain that they could not get through on the two 0891 lines.

The problem lay in the need for every call to pass through a local exchange before reaching the national network. Copper cables on the local networks do not have the same capacity as the national network fibre-optic cables and this is why some callers got the engaged tone or a recorded message saying lines were busy. Once through the local exchanges BT's main call centre at Oswestry was able to redirect calls around the country — even out of the country and back in again — in order to keep an even flow on the networks.

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FORTE
HOTELS

Council considers ban on housing paedophiles

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PAEDOPHILES may be banned from renting council homes under a proposal to provide greater protection for tenants.

The ruling Labour group on Middlesbrough Council is to discuss a ban on housing convicted child-sex offenders as a result of new government guidance that gives councils greater discretion over choice of tenants.

Michael Carr, chairman of the housing committee, is in favour of a ban. "We can't afford to see the safety and security of our tenants jeopardised by accommodating paedophiles," he said.

The new guidance to local authorities suggests they are entitled to decide that certain categories of people should not

qualify for housing. A statement from Middlesbrough Council said: "Groups who are debarred from council housing can include those with a history of violence towards staff, antisocial behaviour or rent arrears."

"It has been suggested that locally we could determine that individuals who have been convicted of sexual offences against children could also form a category who are not entitled to be considered for housing."

"We think it is proper to explore this possibility, given our concern, and that of the whole community, for the safety of children."

The council is one of the first to act on the guidance, although there has been a

number of initiatives in which police and local education authorities have acted to give greater information to the public about paedophiles in their neighbourhood.

The Labour proposal in Middlesbrough, however, will be viewed with alarm by penal reform groups working with convicted offenders. They fear that such a ban would drive paedophiles "underground" and put the public at greater risk.

Roger Statham, chief probation officer of Cleveland, said: "If people don't get support when they come out of prison, and if they are not in a position where they have a regular roof over their heads, they are likely to go off the rails in a number of ways."

Tenants back official accused of tip-off about sex offender

By IAN MURRAY
COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

COUNCIL tenants are fighting to protect the job of a housing officer who allegedly tipped them off when a convicted paedophile moved to their estate.

Mike Wood appeared before a disciplinary panel of Birmingham City Council yesterday. A full, private hearing next Thursday will decide whether he broke council rules by disclosing confidential information. If found guilty, he could lose his job.

Mr Wood was suspended on full pay in November after tenants on the Garrets Green

estate discovered that a new resident had just been released from a prison sentence for assaulting a girl.

Parents held a demonstration against the man, who had moved into a flat where his elderly mother had lived for several years. The man and his mother were moved.

More than 1,500 people signed a petition asking for no disciplinary action to be taken against Mr Wood. John Hemming, a Liberal Democrat councillor who is leading the campaign, said parents had a right to know about the conviction so that they could ensure children's safety.

Karon Bull, who has two

children, said: "He invited children back to his flat. He told them his name was Elvis Presley and his mum was Mystic Meg. His behaviour was so bizarre that he seemed to be able to draw children to him. If we had not been told about his past we wouldn't have had the opportunity to keep a close eye on the kids."

Ann Fleming, spokeswoman for the housing department, said: "The man went to live with his mother, whom we have an obligation to house. There is no register to which we can refer to find out whether prospective tenants have a record of sexual crimes."

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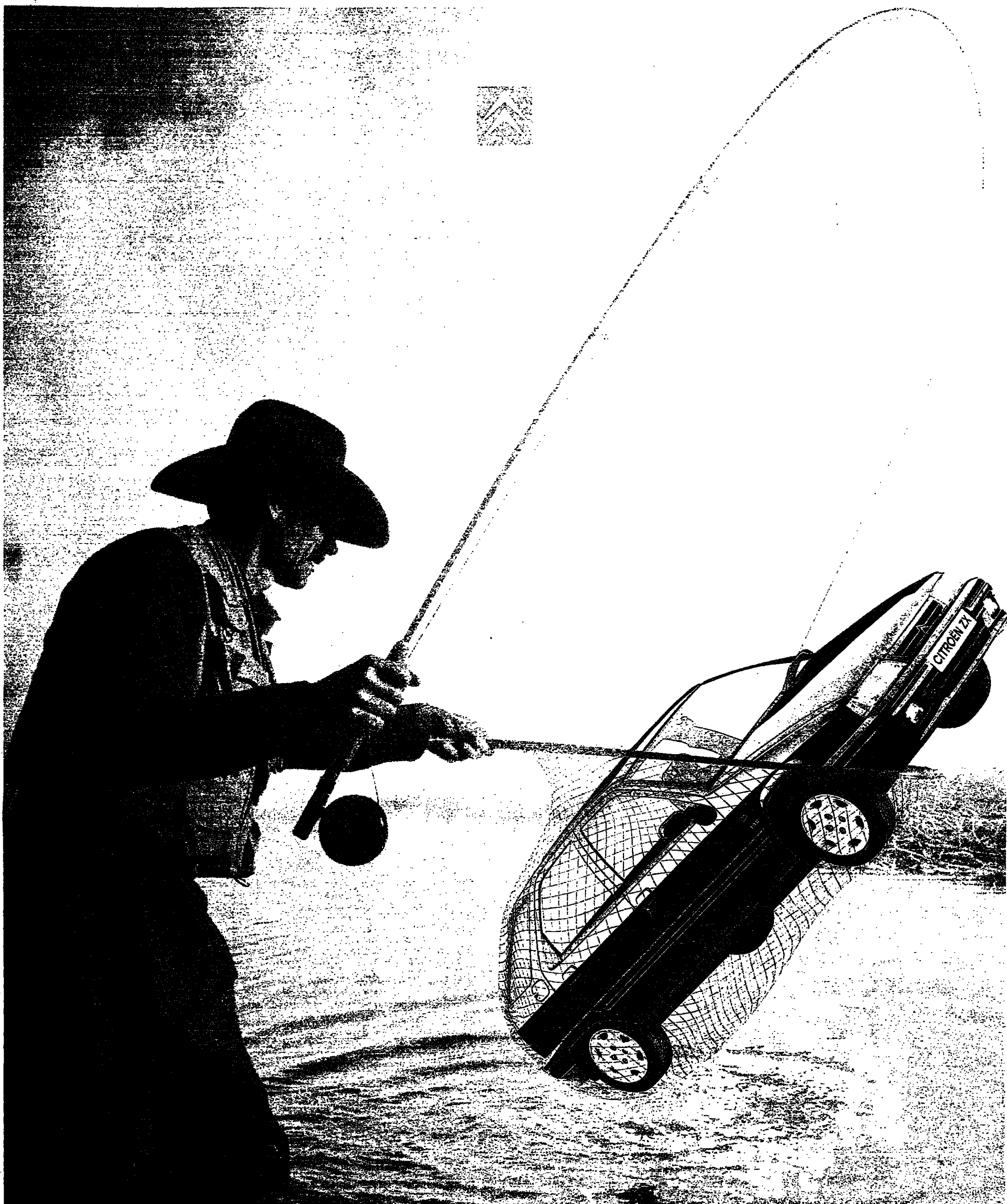
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Geographers' conference: Nigel Hawkes on emergency care and rising demand for home help

Call to replace NHS casualty units with 'trauma centres'

A NETWORK of 24-hour trauma centres is needed to replace the "fragmented and haphazard" National Health Service treatment of accident and emergency cases, it was claimed yesterday.

Philip Kivell, of the University of Keele, told the Geographers' Conference in Exeter that the present system of 318 accident and emergency units owed more to historical patterns than to real need. "It is not providing the best service for the most serious injuries, yet people cling to it for a variety of reasons, including local pride."

The closure of one such unit, at Edgware General Hospital in north-west London, led Sir John Gorst, the Conservative MP for Hendon North, to resign the Tory whip.

Dr Kivell said that many units, especially in rural areas, saw fewer than 20,000 patients a year — too few to provide the best standards of care — while in cities many were close together. More than half the units in England and Wales are within ten miles of a similar unit.

Thirty major injury centres, each based on a big town or city with an existing well-

equipped A&E unit, would have 24-hour consultant-led services and would co-ordinate emergency care.

They would form the hub of a network of between four and ten general hospitals which would continue to provide emergency care for their communities, concentrating on the less severe cases. They would have data links to the trauma centres to send X-ray images and help to decide what treatment to give, or whether a case should be sent directly to the trauma centre.

"Decisions made in the first hour after an accident are crucial, and in many cases it may be better to take a patient further, to a well-resourced centre, rather than to a local hospital," Dr Kivell said.

He admitted that the plan could lead to the closure of some A&E units, but said that it would be inevitable anyway because of financial constraints. Most trivial injuries, such as cuts and bruises, could be dealt with by GPs or practice nurses.

"It is not just a matter of size and resources, but the size of the patient throughput," he said. "That has to be large enough to give the staff ade-

quate experience. If you are the victim of a gunshot wound in the middle of Wales, for example, you aren't necessarily going to get the best treatment, because they probably don't see more than a couple of cases a year."

With Keith Mason, also of the Department of Geography at Keele, Dr Kivell has worked out the best locations for the trauma centres. London would have five. All main population centres would be within 30 miles of one, although people living in thinly populated rural areas would have much further to go.

He admitted that the analysis left out of account "the intensely sensitive political issues" raised by closures. "If some centres are to be closed, and the financial resources are limited, this will inevitably raise the possibility of allowing some centres to decline, or even close," he said.

But the problem needed to be addressed, he said. More than 10,000 people every year died from accidents, principally on the road or at home, with accidents at work accounting for only 8 per cent. Injuries were now the leading cause of death up to the age of 40.



The older image: traditional cleaning ladies have lost ground in Hampstead, the conference was told

Younger Ms Mopps sweep back into rooms at the top

A GLIMPSE into the lifestyles of Hampstead's cleaning ladies yesterday showed how the traditional world of Mrs Mopps has been replaced by younger women taking advantage of a strong rise in demand for paid domestic labour.

Behind the solid frontages of some of north London's most fashionable homes, the rooms are kept clean by an informal workforce, many of whom also claim benefits, and others who are foreigners without work permits, Rosie Cox of Coventry University said. The implication was that the service sector may be much larger than official figures show.

The private army of domestic staff comes from home-lands as far apart as Colombia, Russia and the Philippines, as well as Britain. Many are mothers earning extra money by working for other working mothers. Ms

Cox interviewed employers and staff, choosing Hampstead as the London area with the highest demand for domestic employment, as judged by advertisements in *The Lady* magazine.

Not surprisingly, she reported that no one enjoyed cleaning as a job, but said the work was convenient and easy to find. Pay rates ranged from £5 to £6.50 an hour, with travel expenses on top, and sometimes even holiday pay. In Coventry, where Ms Cox also did some research, rates were £2.50 an hour, without travel costs.

The employers divided into two broad groups: the career minded who needed help in organising their own lives — such as working mothers who needed helpers to collect children from school — and people with plenty of time but no desire to spend it cleaning. The nationalities also in-

cluded Polish, Portuguese and Irish, she said. She did not ask if cleaners were continuing to draw benefits, but guessed that most did. The nature of the work could be exploitative by falling outside employment legislation, but it could also be mutually beneficial.

Ms Cox said: "Low-paid jobs are being created, but because of the existence of the welfare state they are often in the informal sector. The very existence of a benefits system has meant that many higher-paid people are able to employ domestic help because they do not have to bear the true cost, such as sick pay."

The number employed was not known, but evidence suggested that it was growing fast. The most recent Family Expenditure Survey showed that £3.89 billion is spent on all kinds of help in the home.

Leading article, page 17

MATCH OF THE DAY POSTPONED

A lecture entitled "Beer, women, football and curry" has been cancelled because the author is suffering from a stomach upset. Shaun Fielding, a 28-year-old researcher, was due to deliver his paper on "new lad" culture to the conference today, but his illness has kept him at home in Birmingham. Yesterday Mr Fielding said: "I don't think my problem was caused by a curry. I

think it is more likely to have been brought on by the stress of trying to write this paper in time." Mr Fielding, who took his title from a T-shirt worn by fans of Bolton Wanderers Football Club, recently left Birmingham University for the Tavistock Institute in London and has been unable to complete his research into the lifestyles of Midlands apprentices.

MINERS UNMOVED BY JOBS

Few unemployed miners are prepared to move in search of work, the conference was told. A survey in Barnsley and Loutham showed most had concluded that moving was too difficult, and too unlikely to produce a job, to be worth considering. The houses they had bought from the Coal Board were difficult to sell, said Emma Hollywood, of the University of Sheffield, and many were

too fond of their home area to move anyway. "They have a very strong attachment to place. They simply aren't prepared to move on the off-chance of a job in some other part of the country," she said. The former miners survived on redundancy money or benefits, and most appeared to accept with resignation that they would never get well-paid jobs again.

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The Link

Astronomer dusts off evidence of 1690 comet

By NIGEL HAWKES

A 300-year-old drawing discovered at the Paris Observatory records a collision between Jupiter and a comet or asteroid, almost identical to the impact when the Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet hit the same planet in 1994.

Astronomers had assumed that many such impacts occurred over the centuries, but lacked evidence. The drawing, one of several by the distinguished astronomer Giovanni Domenico Cassini, that have been rediscovered, provides the first such evidence.

Cassini saw a spot appear on the surface of Jupiter in December 1690. The spot, as he described it, has several features in common with the impact spots made by the Shoemaker-Levy comet.

Italian-born Cassini was the first director of the Paris Observatory. His drawings were rediscovered in the archives by Issie Tabe, an amateur astronomer from Japan, who is studying historical records of Jovian phenomena. With the description written by Cassini, they provide clear evidence of an impact.

The spot appeared on December 5, 1690, and its size — 4,660 miles across — was comparable to the spots made by fragments from Shoemaker-Levy. The 1690 spot developed over the next few weeks, like the 1994 spots, and the shape changed. It first became a crescent, then broke into several dark patches. The most easterly of these demonstrated the effect of the winds that race across the surface of Jupiter, as did one of the 1994 spots.

Saudis say murder court will find truth

By MICHAEL BINYON

ONE of the most influential members of the Saudi royal family issued an authoritative statement yesterday insisting that his country would ignore any outside pressure over the trial of the two British nurses accused of murder.

Prince Naif bin Abdulaziz, the Interior Minister, is a brother of King Fahd and has the power to review all important cases and rulings. He said yesterday: "Our sole interest, regardless of the media, is to find the truth and we are sure the truth will come out during the trial."

He also emphasised that any confession by Lucille McLaughlan and Deborah Parry to the police would not be upheld unless it was rendered freely in front of the court. The two nurses were said to have admitted murdering Yvonne Gifford, an Australian nurse, but have since retracted the confessions.

In a clear response to claims that they had confessed under duress, Prince Naif said: "A confession given to the police is in no way binding on the court. Even with a confession, the prosecution will have to prove the case."

A senior Scottish lawyer is to represent Ms McLaughlan, of Dundee, free of charge after being contacted by her parents. Peter Watson, a solicitor advocate, has represented relatives of the Lockerbie, Piper Alpha and Dunblane disasters. Miss Parry, from the Midlands, is to be represented by the Manchester solicitor Roger Pannone, whose former clients include Ernest Saunders and Asil Nadir.

Churches attack baby milk firms

By DOMINIC KENNEDY, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BABY milk manufacturers were accused yesterday of endangering children in poor countries by aggressive marketing that discourages mothers from breastfeeding.

After the report by 27 charities, churches and other organisations, the Church of England will reconsider whether to boycott Nestlé and other food companies, including Nutricia, known in Britain as Cow & Gate. The Church withdrew support for an international boycott of Nestlé in 1994 while it sought independent evidence of bad practices.

The multinationals are accused of violating a code designed to stop women being pressurised into using breast milk substitutes, which are blamed for the deaths of babies in the Third World through malnutrition and poor hygiene.

Infant formula is so expensive in some countries that a family has to work four weeks for the price of one tin, the

report says. Mothers are tempted to use the contents by overfilling. If they are illiterate, they cannot follow the instructions.

The report, based on interviews with 3,200 women in four nations, was produced by the Interagency Group on Breastfeeding Monitoring. It found widespread breaches of the code, including gifts such as pens and notepads, particularly in the emerging markets of Poland and Thailand.

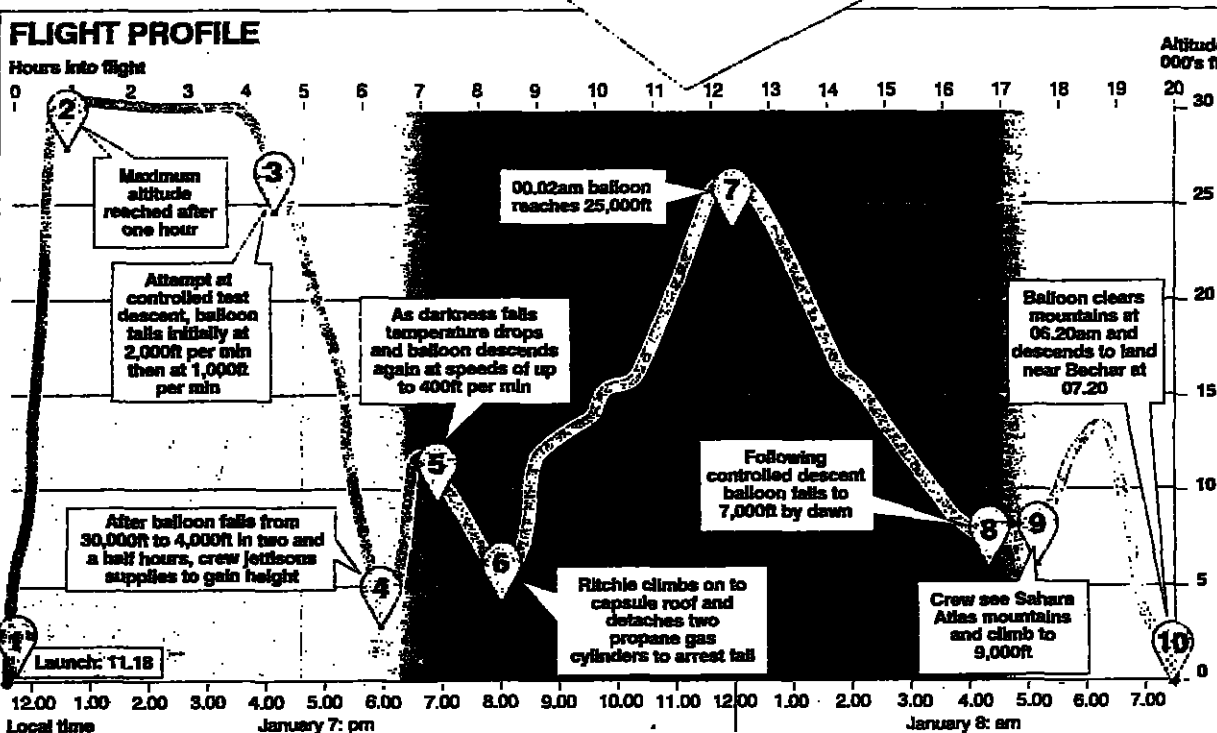
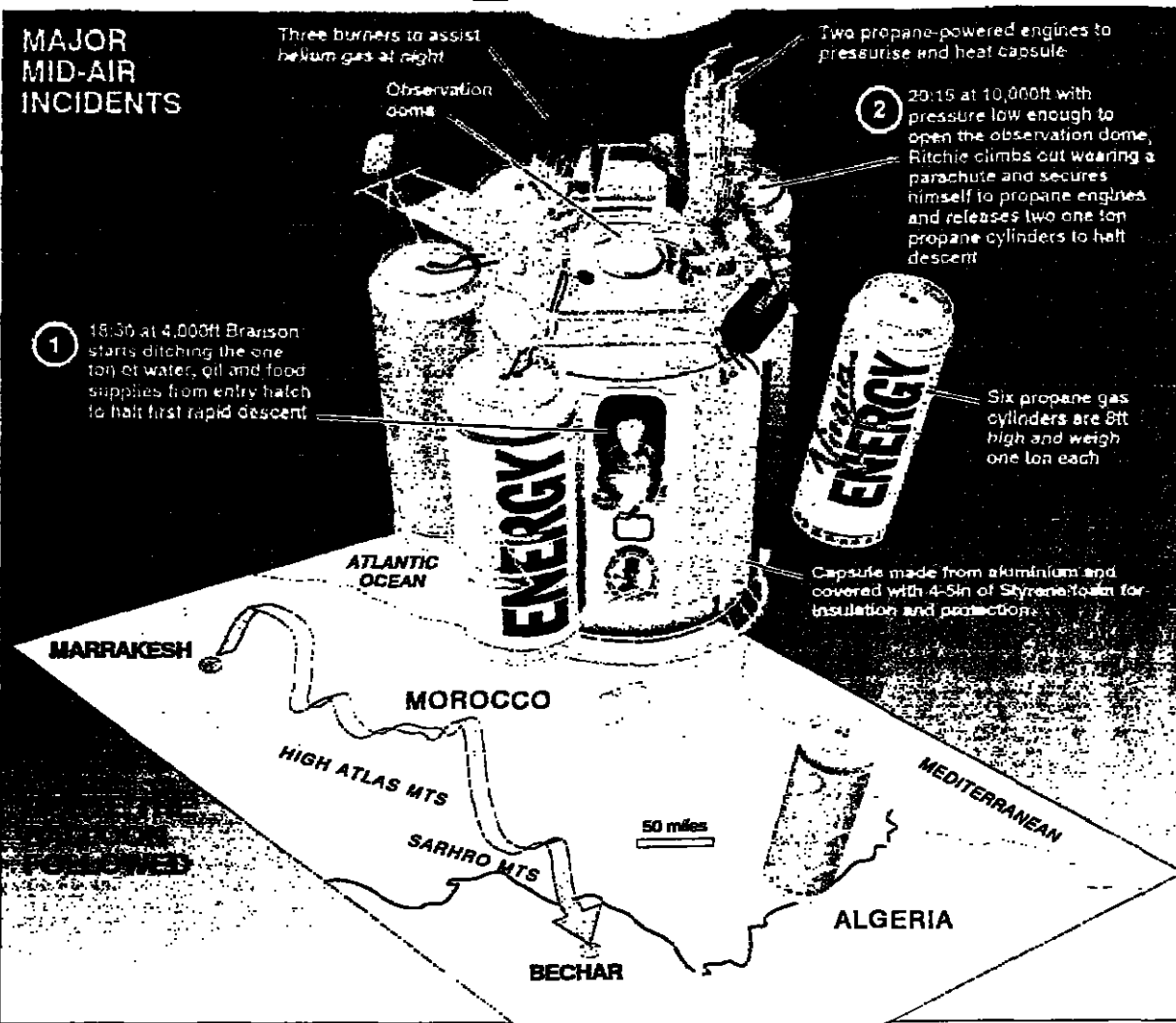
Baby milk manufacturers condemned the research as "biased in design and execution". But the Bishop of Coventry, the Right Rev. Simon Barrington-Ward, said: "Some commercial interests of leading companies are running against the health and the concerns of people in the poorer world."

The World Health Organisation estimates that 1.5 million infant deaths a year could be averted through effective breastfeeding.

Balloon flight ends in desperate fight for life



Alex Ritchie, left, Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand inside the capsule at the launch. Mr Ritchie later climbed out to jettison gas tanks as the balloon fell to earth



We're not gloating, say Swiss rivals

By RICHARD DUCE

A CHALLENGER for the balloon circumnavigation record is hoping for take-off from Switzerland this weekend. Weather conditions permitting, the *Breilinger Orbiter* may lift off from Lausanne on Saturday, two days earlier than expected.

Don Cameron, the Bristol-based balloonist who is launch director for the Swiss crew, was preparing yesterday to travel to Lausanne at short notice. Mr Cameron's firm made the balloon for the Swiss attempt and for an American rival.

Alan Noble, project director of Cameron Balloons, said: "We are not gloating. These balloons are prototypes. If anything, our balloon is more advanced than Richard's. What happened to him could happen to us. This is no easy task to complete."

The Swiss flight will be monitored from a control centre at Geneva airport. Mr Noble added: "We are still analysing the weather reports, but Saturday is a possibility. We are ready to go."

"It has been frustrating sitting in poor weather while Richard was taking off. We are relieved he is down safely. Ballooning is a small community and they are friends although we are competitors."

Mr Cameron said yesterday that he was "very sad" to hear of the failure of *Virgin Challenger*. "These balloons are new developments and technology faults are always a possibility. The only way you can test one of these balloons is to fly it around the world."

"It is a pity that they had a fault so early on. There are so many hurdles you have to face in such a flight. It is unfortunate that theirs came early. They are sure to be very disappointed."

The American flyer, Steve Fossett, was awaiting a change in the jet stream currents which would allow his balloon to lift off from St Louis, Missouri.

Stand-in's deadly gamble averts disaster over desert

By ANDREW PIERCE

THE extraordinary bravery of a last-minute stand-in saved the lives of Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand when he clambered on top of *Virgin Challenger's* plummeting capsule at 10,000ft to unbolt and dump overboard two massive gas cylinders.

The do-or-die gamble by Alex Ritchie, 52, who was called up as six hours before launch, halted the balloon's dramatic descent with minutes to spare.

Mr Ritchie battled for five nerve-racking minutes on the 7ft-wide roof of the capsule, in pitch black and freezing conditions, to release two propane gas cylinders in an attempt to stop *Challenger's* freefall. He had a parachute, but had never used one before.

A fault was discovered shortly after take-off in Marrakesh as *Challenger* cruised at 15 knots at 30,000ft. The balloon had reached its height in little more than an hour, two hours fewer than anticipated. Mr Branson had described it as "a bit of a hairy launch" with the balloon "spewing helium".

Challenger's buoyancy came from a sealed helium bubble inside the balloon that could be vented to stop it rising too high but could not be refilled once gas had escaped. The belief was the sun would heat the helium during the day and small propane gas burners would heat the air around it at night.

The most likely theories last night were either that too much helium was vented by Mr Lindstrand, the pilot, or that the balloon began plunging once more at speeds of up to 400ft a minute.

"We decided we had to lose the fuel tanks. It was the only way to arrest the fall," Mr Branson said. The crew tried to release one of the six propane gas cylinders but found the automatic safety release was jammed. Unknown to them, couplings preventing release had been left on at take-off.

Mr Ritchie, a mechanical

engineer, decided he should go outside to try to release them by hand. "I crawled out on the capsule top and sorted it out. All I took with me was a parachute and some straps so I could be lashed to the top of the capsule. It's all a blur," he said. "I only did what I had to do."

Overall, the emergency lasted little more than 45 minutes. But in that time Mr Branson's global voyage had come to an end.

The crew decided that the dawn should mark the start of their final controlled descent, which began two minutes after midnight, drifting down through 10,000ft at 3.45am, and 7,000ft at 4.50am.

The Bechar military base, in a restricted desert area in north-west Algeria, was chosen for landing. But a final hurdle lay below — the snow-topped 5,700ft peaks of the Atlas Mountains. The balloon rose again to 13,000ft by 6.22am.

Touchdown followed an hour later — 17 days earlier than planned and only 20 hours after launch.

There was a strange silence in the capsule. But in the tiny control centre in west London the safe arrival was greeted by more tears and a deafening round of applause.

Mr Branson sent a short e-mail message on the Internet to the control centre which said: "The eagle has landed. No damage to the capsule. No injuries. Will call on the satellite phone as soon as we have drunk the champagne."

Mr Branson said: "The hero of the moment is Alex Ritchie. I am sure if he had not been on board we would not have come back. Being an engineer it was fortuitous that he was there and knew how to release the two tanks."

Reliving the worst moments, he said: "I suddenly thought what am I doing up here again. I remember saying to myself if I get through this I am never going to do it again."

Mr Branson's escapades could now be over. He said his son, Sam, 11, had asked him whether he would try again. "But when I asked him what he thought he said, 'Of course you should.' I was rather hoping to hear the reverse from him."

Mr Branson's wife Joan was implacably opposed and the family plans to discuss a possible further attempt next year.

Per Lindstrand admitted that they may have been too ambitious in using an untested balloon of such magnitude on an epic voyage. He said: "I think we may have tried to push the barriers of technology back a little too far. We had never flown the whole system. It caught us out."

Mrs Branson's wife, Joan, was telephoned at her London home at 7.30am with news of the landing. She replied: "Is he safe? That's all right then. I'm relieved. I'm going to take the children to school."

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Family's pride in middle-aged hero who rose to the challenge

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE idea of a 52-year-old man performing an action stunt worthy of an Arnold Schwarzenegger film left his family feeling a little breathless yesterday. Alex Ritchie is a bespectacled, practical man whose main interest is steamboats.

In the tradition of modest heroes, he failed to mention his action to his wife, Jill, in a 7.30am telephone call. Mrs Ritchie, a primary school teacher in Harwich, Essex, said: "He sounded in good spirits, but disappointed, but said nothing about what had happened. He just said, 'I'm here. We are down safely and surrounded by curious natives — I hope they are friendly.'"

Then Richard Branson snatched the phone. "He sounded a bit frantic, but cheerful. He said, 'Your husband saved our lives last night.' Even then, she did not know the details until 10am when a journalist asked her how she felt. She said: 'I couldn't believe it. I am glad that I didn't see it as it happened. It would have been too much to bear.'"

"It was no surprise, though. My husband is not totally without fear but he is very



Jill Ritchie keeping track yesterday. She said: "I always knew I didn't have an ordinary husband"

level-headed in a crisis and he would have risen to the challenge. Alex would not be happy if life was too dull. I have always known I did not have an ordinary husband. I am very, very proud."

Their sons, Alasdair, 23, a student of mechanical engineering at the University of Hertfordshire, and Duncan, 19, a racing mechanic, were impressed. Alasdair said: "I was completely flabbergasted when I heard he was board-

ing the balloon, as I'd never realised it had been a possibility. Now I am trying to picture him on top of that capsule."

"My brother and I often joke that he's got more energy and get-up-and-go than the two of us put together, despite being twice our age."

Mr Ritchie, who has been married for 26 years, was born in Scotland but was raised and educated in Durban, South Africa. His mother, Christine Daly, emigrated

there with her new husband after Mr Ritchie's father died. He studied engineering at Durban University before completing a postgraduate course at Cambridge University. He worked on projects at Leyland Gas Turbines and Noel Penny Gas Turbines, and still works as a self-employed engineering consultant. His work with balloon burners had been noticed by Per Lindstrand, who asked him ten years ago to work on a Branson project.

But his passion is for steamboats. He has one in his back garden and much of his work is supplying companies with specialist engines.

In Durban yesterday, his mother said he was the kind of man who took up sports and hobbies for their practical value. "He completed a deep-sea diving course recently, but he does these things with the view that they might come in useful one day."

"He's not a daredevil. He's a very practical chap. He sees what has to be done and then grasps the nettle. He's also got tremendous energy and an hugely active mind. He's fascinated with how things work."

"It's just lucky that he happened to be there. I think he was sent by Providence on this balloon trip."

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Amman demonstrators mar Israeli trade fair

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

JORDANIAN security forces clashed with 4,000 demonstrators protesting against the first Israeli trade fair in Amman yesterday.

The anti-Israeli demonstrations were the biggest seen in the Jordanian capital since the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis and underlined growing grassroots opposition to normalising ties with the Jewish State.

The protesters, chanting the Islamic battle cry "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greater) tried to push through security forces mounted on horses and camels in a cordon erected half a mile from the fair site, but failed to get nearer. Police fired water cannon filled with coloured dye but that failed to move the angry crowd, which included representatives of 20 out of Jordan's 23 political parties.

The crowd carried banners reading "Jordan is not the Zionist bridge to the Arab world", and "A massacre in Hebron and an exhibition in Amman", a bitter reference to last week's shooting of six Arabs in a Hebron market by

an off-duty Israeli soldier. The number of Israeli companies attending the fair dropped from an expected 200 to around 70 as a result of the campaign mounted against it in the run-up to yesterday's opening, which was boycotted by a number of Jordanian VIPs.

King Hussein, the strongest proponent of the 1994 peace deal with Israel, was out of the country holding talks with President Mubarak of Egypt.

On the other side of the Jordan river, Palestinian officials claimed yesterday that talks over an Israeli withdrawal from Hebron had plunged into crisis. Dennis Ross, the US special envoy, struggled to breathe new life into deadlocked negotiations to secure Israeli troop withdrawal from Hebron, and Palestinian officials spoke of "very wide gaps" remaining after a six-hour meeting he held with Yasser Arafat in Gaza. The meeting which ended early yesterday was described by PLO sources as "extremely tense".

"The talks have hit a serious crisis," Nabil Abourdeneh, Mr Arafat's spokesman, told Voice of Palestine Radio. "The Israelis are threatening the peace process by making such proposals."

Imad Faluji, Palestinian telecommunications minister and former spokesman for the militant group Hamas, said that Israel would "pay a very high price" for the deterioration of the peace process.

Senior Israeli officials claim that the broad outline of a deal to pull Israeli troops out of 80 per cent of Hebron has already been achieved in principle but is being deliberately held up by Mr Arafat in an attempt to increase international pressure on the government of Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Our feeling is that Mr Arafat is in no rush and it is really up to him when we can go forward," Moshe Fogel, an Israeli spokesman said.

Two guerrilla attacks in which one Israeli soldier was killed and seven others were wounded. The fighting followed recent reinforcements of Israeli armour in the area.

Among the protesters in Amman, Laith Shubailat, a vocal opposition activist recently released from jail on the King's orders, attacked the government for becoming "an agent of Zionism to Judaise Jordan".

Ahmed Obeidat, the former Prime Minister and intelligence chief, urged calm, telling the demonstrators that "the security forces are brother Jordanians like us... their feelings are like ours and they are only given orders".

Shimon Shamir, the Israeli Ambassador who is heavily protected while serving in Jordan, said at the delayed opening ceremony: "The [Jordanian] opposition to the exhibition is being used as an excuse to express dissatisfaction with the peace process, Jordan's peace treaty with Israel and even the existence of the state of Israel."



A member of a Japanese clean-up crew struggles through waters covered with thick oil spilled from a Russian tanker in the Sea of Japan. Local volunteers joined in yesterday as the operation

Slick ruins fishing grounds

was helped by the first break in the weather since the tanker split in two on January 2. Two planes, 14 ships

and four helicopters are trying to track the spill which has damaged centuries-old fishing areas. In the port

town of Mikuni, a local fisherman said: "Everything is dead. This was the best part of the coast for abalone and all sorts of fish. They were the sweetest and the best." (Reuters)

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Patten dismisses Howe fears over angering China

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG

CHRIS PATTEN, the Governor of Hong Kong, yesterday rejected a warning by Lord Howe, the former Foreign Secretary, that elements in Hong Kong might attempt to foment a revolution in China.

During a visit to the colony this week Lord Howe, who in 1984 led the negotiations which produced the agreement to transfer Hong Kong to China in June, claimed that if Hong Kong attempted to "make itself a bridgehead for revolutionary change in China, it would do great damage to itself".

Lord Howe also urged the "leaders of Hong Kong opinion" not to "challenge" the entire structure of the People's Republic of China and set Hong Kong up as a generator of change in China.

Mr Patten said: "I have been in Hong Kong getting on for five years... and I think Hong Kong is as responsible and moderate a place as I have ever lived in... I don't think anything in Hong Kong, any of its values... represents a threat to anybody else."

Although Lord Howe declined to name them, his phrase "leaders of public opinion" appeared to refer to the Democratic Party, which won the majority of seats in last year's Legislative Council elec-

tions. The Democrats have been branded as subversives by Peking.

Lord Howe also called on the Hong Kong press not to give China "shocks" and, especially during the period leading up to the handover, to avoid emphasising bad news.

In contrast, Anson Chan, the Chief Secretary, urged the press to "stand up for its own freedom... and to write stories and editorials that deserve to be written".

Mr Patten said: "Hong Kong was mounting an urgent appeal against an American court's refusal to extradite a fugitive to the colony, because of its impending handover to China. Mr Patten said yesterday."

The ruling by the court in Boston undermined Hong Kong's efforts to convince the world that it would retain its freedoms, particularly judicial independence, after it reverts to China, the Governor said.

A US district court judge ruled on Tuesday against extraditing Jerry Loi Kin-hong, a former commercial director of British-American Tobacco Co (Hong Kong) to face multimillion-dollar bribery and conspiracy charges relating to cigarette smuggling. (Reuters)

Photograph, page 22

290 adrift in Pacific after fire on ship

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A STRICKEN charter ship carrying 290 passengers, many of them students, was reported yesterday to be drifting in the Pacific.

The 20ft *Maasmond* was sailing from the Kiribati island of Tarawa to Christmas Island when a fire broke out in the engine room, leaving it without power. The ship sent an SOS on Tuesday night.

A Royal New Zealand Airforce plane found the vessel yesterday afternoon, drifting about 500 miles east of the Kiribati, a group of atolls about 3,000 miles northeast of Sydney. It reported that the ship had radioed that "it's in no immediate distress and has enough food and water for five days".

The ship was about two days sailing from the nearest island, and a tug was being sent to tow it back to Tarawa. Wayssing Kunkke, the ship's owner, said: "He added that if the passengers ran out of food they can easily borrow some of the cargo [of rice and tinned food]."

Cash dash after van crash

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

PEDESTRIANS fought among themselves and cars ground to a halt in Miami yesterday when a Brinks armoured security van carrying \$3.7 million (£2.2 million) worth of currency overturned and "unburied" itself of much of its bank-bound cargo.

Coins and notes of various denominations — as high as \$100 — were sent flying in the crash. The accident caused mayhem and a frenzy of what one local described as "dime pickin'". People fought one another as they scurried after the rolling coins and fluttering notes. Lieutenant Bill Schwartz, of the Miami Police Department, said: "Some of them were ready to kill each other."

The unexpected cash harvest happened after the van's brakes locked, sending the vehicle into a violent somersault as it was making its way over a bridge. Only a few of the more altruistic citizens bothered themselves about the wellbeing of the van driver and crew.

Girl hurt in jet lavatory

Johannesburg: Investigations were ordered yesterday after a nine-year-old girl was sucked into a lavatory on board a plane flying over South Africa.

Nombla Lusi, who was unaccompanied on a South African Airways Airbus from Johannesburg to Cape Town, underwent surgery yesterday for serious internal and external injuries. A spokesman for Airbus Industrie said it was

the first time such an accident had occurred in one of its aircraft and a report had been sent to company headquarters in France.

Leon Els, for South African Airways, said that the girl managed to push a button for assistance from a flight attendant, but the pilot had to make an emergency descent to 12,000 ft before she could be freed.

Prince Rainier urges heir to marry and settle down as dynasty marks 700 years in power

Monaco celebrates with uneasy eye on future

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN MONACO

THE Grimaldi dynasty yesterday celebrated 700 years of absolute rule over its tiny principality on the Mediterranean as Prince Rainier III of Monaco urged his bachelor son and heir apparent to find a wife and settle down.

With a long, colourful and luxurious past but an uncertain future, Monaco began the lavish festivities that will continue for ten months. The tiny country remains quietly obsessed with the question of the succession and whether Prince Albert, 39, will continue the royal line: a preoccupation plainly shared by his father, twenty-ninth Grimaldi ruler.

The prince, who has shown no inclination to marry, "must sharpen his skills and gain some experience before he is ready to take over", the 73-year-old ruler said in interviews with French television on the eve of the anniversary. "There is also the question of marriage. I would like to see him take things in hand and start a family."

The crowd that turned out yesterday to fête Monaco's rulers was hardly large, but it was reverential, well dressed and, for the most part, exceedingly rich. About 2,000 loyal subjects (about a fifth of the principality's population), many wearing fur coats and clutching small dogs, clapped politely as Prince Rainier unveiled a statue of François Grimaldi, the dynasty's founder. Earlier, the monarch

attended a Te Deum in Monaco's Cathedral with Prince Albert and Princesses Caroline and Stephanie.

The tax haven perched on the Côte d'Azur and its royal rulers have been through trying times recently and the anniversary celebrations were tailored as a low-key exercise in royal pomp, designed to illustrate that Monaco is less a playground for the idle and glamorous, but rather a serious economic centre with a glorious past, Prince Rainier declared. "Honouring our an-

cestors, our land and our traditions is the best way to continue looking into the future." Decked out in the red and white flags of the Grimaldis, Monaco appears on the surface to be unruffled by winds of change. There is no crime, no income tax and no unemployment. Winter's icy grip on the rest of France is barely felt here, although each shrub in the carefully tended herbaceous borders has been wrapped in a frost-resistant plastic bag, just in case. The royal bandmen, with their

feather-topped helmets, marched in perfect step and the white-gloved policemen saluted before answering tourists' inquiries.

In Monte Carlo, the roulette wheels in the casinos never stopped turning, even though Prince Rainier had issued orders that yesterday should be a national holiday for all.

But Monaco's future is less secure than might seem. Standing beside their father, the prince and princesses appeared dignified but grimly unsmiling, the hat worn by Princess Caroline to cover the baldness that has suddenly afflicted her being the most obvious symbol of their turbulent private lives. When Archbishop Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican official responsible for relations with foreign states, referred to an "uncertain world" in his address, few in the congregation missed the reference.

Quite apart from the lurid scandals and tragedies that have struck the younger generation of Grimaldis, the tiny country is also passing through a painful economic decline. The state deficit is up and property prices are down. Investment has dwindled, tourism is falling and even the workers in the state-run casinos, faced with salary cuts, went on strike recently.

Before the celebrations were under way Prince Albert, heir to his father's absolute powers, talked of the need for



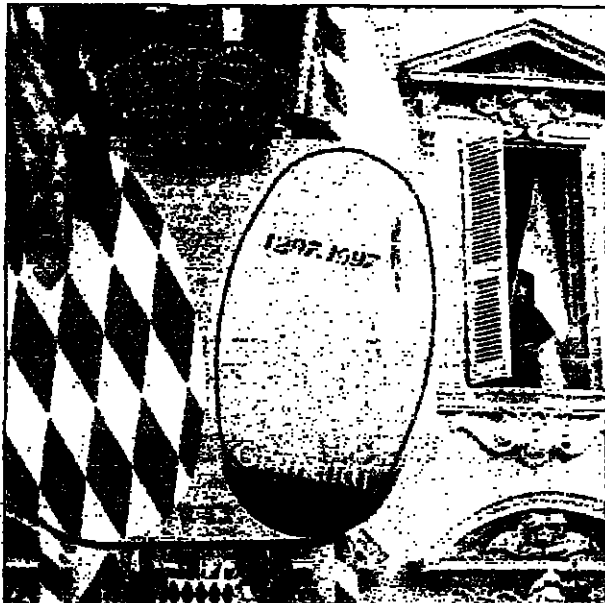
Prince Rainier leaves Monaco's Cathedral yesterday with, from left, Princesses Caroline and Stephanie and Prince Albert

constitutional reform. Just 5,000 of the 30,000 Monaco residents have full Monégasque citizenship and thus the right to vote for the 18-member National Council, which in any case has no legislative powers.

Before the Royal Family and congregation in the cathedral (only Monégasque citizens and permanent residents allowed in), Archbishop Tauran took as his theme, perhaps inevitably, the parable of the man who built his house upon a rock. Prince Rainier's warrior ancestor may have captured the fortress of Monaco in 1297 by the somewhat un-

Christian ruse of dressing up as a monk to gain access, but yesterday's emphasis was solidly on the Grimaldis as holders of the Roman Catholic faith.

"The Monégasques are incredibly loyal," Anne Demez, an American resident in Monaco, whispered. But that fealty may be rooted less in genuine affection for the Royal Family than in an acute awareness of the advantages, not least the absence of income tax, that come from living under its benign rule. After the first 700 years of Grimaldi rule, Monaco wants some guarantee of continuity.



The Grimaldi crown dominates the city decorations

Hijack attempt highlights plight of Bosnian refugees

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE dramatic arrest of a Bosnian hijacker in Berlin this week has given a new edge to a bitter debate about the future of the 350,000 Bosnian refugees in Germany.

As the authorities start to repatriate them, so the Bosnians are resorting to desperate measures: many have gone underground, some have committed suicide and now a 39-year-old living in Rostock has hijacked a plane in the hope of obtaining a work permit.

The prosecutor formally laid charges yesterday against the man, who forced an Austrian Airlines pilot at

knife-point to break off a flight to Vienna and return to Berlin. Police pretended to engage him in talks through the open front hatch while commandos crept in through the back door and pushed him out.

"The man, who had been resident in Germany six years, was earmarked for 'Phase I' repatriation: single men and women drawing social benefits, between the ages of 18 and 35, and childless couples.

Rights organisations and the United Nations have appealed to Germany to delay the process. The Germans have made concessions:

"traumatised people" are excluded from the first wave; family members have been allowed to go to Bosnia-Herzegovina, take photographs of their homes and return. The repatriation is said to be voluntary. However, those in Phase I who refuse to move soon find their benefits drying up.

There is little illusion among refugees here about the chaos awaiting them. About 60 per cent of the 110,000 flats in Sarajevo are in ruins and there are 30,000 landmines scattered around the country.

Pontiff holds line on priest's expulsion

BY RICHARD OWEN

THE Vatican yesterday stood by the excommunication of a "heretical" priest from Sri Lanka, despite his claim that his views on the need for a "tolerant, pluralistic Catholicism" had wide support in Asia and the Third World.

Father Tissa Balasuriya, 72, was excommunicated on the Pope's orders last weekend, after the Vatican had ruled that he was guilty of "deviation from the integrity of the truth of the Catholic faith".

Excommunication is a rare punishment in the modern Church. However, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the feared head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, said Father Balasuriya had made a "series of grave errors" by questioning such tenets of faith as the immaculate conception and original sin.

Father Balasuriya, who says he is "still a priest and still a Catholic", angered the Pope by arguing in his book, *Mary and Human Liberation*, that no one faith has a monopoly on the truth, a heresy defined by the Vatican as "relativism". He also made clear his sympathy with "liberation theology", which the Pope has repeatedly condemned as Marxist, and with the idea of women priests, which is also anathema to the pontiff.

Christians are in a minority in Sri Lanka, where the population is mostly Buddhist and Hindu. However, Cardinal Ratzinger has issued a warning of the need to stop the spread of "relativism" in Asia, and particularly in the sub-continent.

The campaign against Father Balasuriya began three years ago, when the Catholic Bishops Conference of Sri Lanka asked him to explain his reference to the Virgin Mary as "a dehydrated figure" whose image had been used by "capitalist, patriarchal and colonialist Christians" to subjugate Third World believers. Father Balasuriya maintained that his thinking was "within the orthodoxy" of the Catholic Church.



A detail from the Last Judgment, a leading attraction of the Sistine Chapel

Sistine crush forces Vatican to ponder limits on visitors

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE new director of the Vatican museums has warned that the crush of visitors to the Sistine Chapel is becoming so overwhelming that the number of tourists allowed in to see Michelangelo's masterpiece might have to be limited.

"We may have to put a cap on the number of visitors to the chapel," Francesco Buranelli said. "We cannot afford to run risks after the recent restorations."

The chapel was decorated in the 15th century on the orders of Pope Sixtus IV. But the most famous frescoes date from the

early 16th century, when Pope Julius II commissioned Michelangelo to paint his stupendous ceiling depicting the Creation, and 1541, when Michelangelo completed the vast Last Judgment on the wall behind the altar. Cleaning of the frescoes over the past decade, with the removal of grease, dust and candle soot, has revealed their original colours.

Signor Buranelli said numerous attempts had been made to channel visitors along colour-coded museum itineraries to ensure that they saw

other Vatican treasures such as the Egyptian and Etruscan rooms, the Raphael rooms, the gallery of maps and the Borgia apartments. But many made straight for the Sistine Chapel, which is a magnet for all tourists in Rome. Many were not aware that it was still used for the election of popes.

The Vatican museums are only open to the public in the mornings, and queues are often more than half a mile long. Signor Buranelli told *Il Messaggero* the number of visitors to the chapel had risen to almost three million a year.

Lottery blunder draws Italians' fury

BY RICHARD OWEN

ITALIANS indulged in an orgy of self-criticism yesterday after the cancellation of a winning ticket in one of the country's biggest lottery draws for "technical reasons".

"Caramba, what a shambles," said *La Repubblica*, referring to the title of the lottery television show, *Caramba, What a Surprise*. Questions were tabled in parliament, and Vincenzo Visco, the Finance Minister, ordered an inquiry.

The winning ticket, worth two billion lira (nearly £1 million) was sold in Jesi, an industrial town in Marche. Winning

numbers — as in Britain — are decided randomly by numbered balls which spin in a machine and drop into place. However, because of a blockage, only six balls fell instead of ten during Monday's draw, and a technician could be seen on television tramping the machine.

La Repubblica said the real "technical error" was that the state bureaucracy was unable to organise anything properly. The organisers had not cancelled the "winning" ticket until hundreds of viewers telephoned to complain that the machine had malfunctioned.

The unfortunate temporary "winner" and the runner-up, who was awarded the

prize instead, remained anonymous. Psychologists said both could be suffering from shock, and the "millionaire for a day" might become aggressive or contemplate suicide.

The fiasco follows an incident in the northern province of Bergamo last May, when a suspiciously disproportionate number of winning scratch cards were sold in a bar in one small town. They were cancelled, and an investigation was launched into possible fraud or maladministration. Some of the "winners" had spent their supposed fortunes in advance, however, and had to return items such as Ferraris and designer clothes.

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Dutch strive to keep Britain on board as EU chugs towards political union

FROM CHUMLES BRENNER
IN BRUSSELS

THE outlines of a new, looser-knit European Union are beginning to emerge after a bout of Dutch-led diplomacy designed to keep Britain fully engaged.

The key to satisfying Britain's qualms over political integration was outlined on Tuesday night to John Major by Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister and new president of the council of EU governments. Known in Euro-

jargon as "flexibility", the idea is to create machinery in a new "Maastricht II" treaty that would allow states to stay outside moves to deeper union by other members.

There was palpable relief in The Hague and Brussels after Mr Major said he was encouraged by Mr Kok's thinking and reassured him that he wanted Britain to "play a constructive part" in the EU despite the pull of its Eurosceptics. The British were pleased with Mr Kok's support for a multispeed arrangement that

would retain veto rights for all states. This contrasts with a Franco-German plan, tabled last autumn, that would deprive states of a right to block moves towards new joint actions by others.

However, the Dutch-backed version of flexibility brought swift resistance yesterday from Jacques Santer, the President of the European Commission. His spokesman said that the multispeed approach should only ever be used in exceptional circumstances.

The Dutch, who have the job of

orchestrating a new treaty by the end of a summit in Amsterdam in June, decided to tackle the EU's "British problem" at the outset of their six-month presidency.

The forthcoming general election in Britain is compounding the stalemate in the EU's attempts to revamp itself, and London is being blamed by the other 14 states for delaying the negotiations for a treaty that is supposed to set the scene for enlarging the Union.

However, the Dutch desire to accommodate Britain is feeding

anxiety in Bonn and Paris that The Hague, for all its traditional federalism, could push too far in Britain's direction for the sake of clinching a new treaty. "It looks as though we have a Dutch problem as well as a British one," a French diplomat said after this week's Dutch charm offensive towards London.

The French are accusing the Dutch of timidity, but Mr Kok's team is sceptical over President Chirac's newfound enthusiasm for such federal-minded ideas as pool-

ing powers on immigration and police work. "It's impossible to know how the French will behave in the end-game," said Michiel Patijn, the European Affairs Minister who is chairing the inter-governmental conference (IGC), the negotiating body for the "Maastricht II" treaty.

Mr Kok said it would be "unforgivable" to imply that Britain was the source of all the EU's woes. Hans Van Mierlo, the Foreign Minister, attacked hypocrisy among all states over the vexed

issue of the veto. "Everyone says, 'Yes, we want more qualified majority voting but not in my backyard,'" he quipped.

The Netherlands' desire to encourage a counterbalance to the Franco-German axis is evident in its strategy towards the IGC. Mr Kok, a Social Democrat, says it is vital for Europe to keep the United Kingdom involved as the Union pursues the historical imperative of embracing the nations of the former communist bloc. "Europe without the UK is not complete."

Priest martyred by communists set on path to sainthood

By ROGER BOYES

BEATIFICATION procedures for Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the Solidarity priest murdered by communist secret policemen in 1984, are likely to be set in motion by the Vatican next month, according to the Polish Primate of the Roman Catholic Church.

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, who had a rather tense relationship with the young priest during his lifetime, let slip the Vatican decision in a meeting with Warsaw parishioners. The road to sainthood, however, is a long and bumpy one and it will probably take many decades before the priest — who was 37 at the time of his killing — becomes St Jerzy.

Even so, Catholic sources in Poland were pleasantly surprised at the speed of the proceedings. "This is a sign of the Polish Pope's continuing strong interest in the Popieluszko case," said a senior cleric. The Pope is sure to mention it during his pilgrimage to Poland between May 31 and June 10.

The murder reinforced the dismal message of martial law, declared in December 1981, that communist power in Poland (and by extension, the whole of Eastern Europe) could be maintained only by force. The trial of the secret police killers signalled the beginning of the end of communist rule, demonstrating the unbridgeable gulf between

leaders and their followers. There is little difficulty in establishing that Popieluszko died a martyr's death. His anti-communist sermons at the Warsaw church of St Stanislaw Kostka attracted huge audiences after the declaration of martial law. As enthusiasm for underground resistance flagged, Popieluszko kept alive the spirit of the banned Solidarity union.

This came to irritate the Church hierarchy which, under the leadership of Cardinal Glemp, was convinced that martial law was the necessary "lesser evil" — the averted "greater evil" having been an armed Soviet invasion. Church policy was cautious, helping victims of

martial law but trying to steer clear of pulpits. Popieluszko defied the warnings of the cardinal and bishops, arguing that the truth about the regime had to be clearly and publicly stated.

Eventually, a group of secret policemen in the anti-church department decided to act. The priest died in a bungled kidnapping and assault in October 1984, although a post-mortem examination failed to determine the exact cause of death. Three policemen were jailed but the real masterminds were never brought to justice.

For the past 12 years priests friendly with Popieluszko have been appealing to parishioners for information that could demonstrate his ability to heal or make small miracles, which is part of the portfolio of a future saint.

Perhaps the biggest irony is that Cardinal Glemp has, by dint of the Pope's personal interest, become a champion of the young priest. Yet Popieluszko's diary clearly records his dismay after a tough meeting with Cardinal Glemp: "His charges against me completely knocked me off balance. Even the secret police during the interrogation showed me more respect..."

□ Roger Boyes is the author of *The Priest Who Had To Die*. Gollancz.



Popieluszko: preached against Polish regime

Leading article, page 17

Spanish colonel shot dead by woman

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN
IN MADRID

A YOUNG female assassin, believed to belong to Eta, the Basque terrorist group, shot dead a Spanish army colonel in Madrid yesterday, sparking fears of a ruthless new campaign of violence in the heart of the capital.

Barely an hour after the murder of Lieutenant-Colonel Jesus Agustin Cuesta Abril, which occurred in the Estrella quarter of the Moratalaz district, a car packed with explosives, thought to be the one in which the woman escaped, blew up outside a supermarket in the same district, injuring a passerby.

The killing of Colonel Cuesta took place at about 3.15pm yesterday. He had barely emerged from his car outside his house when a young woman shot him in the jaw and forehead.

As he fell to the ground, she shot him again. Her accomplice, a young man in a dark anorak, fired once at the colonel's chauffeur, who was still in the car, injuring him slightly. The killer is believed to be Ainhoa Múgica Góni or Maria Jesús Arriaga Arruabarrena, both members of Eta's "Madrid Command", whose "wanted" posters are plastered all over the city.

Ambulances rushed to the spot minutes after the gunman and her companion made their escape in a white Ford Fiesta, but the 49-year-old colonel was already dead. He belonged to the logistics wing of a cavalry regiment and had served in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Just after 4pm, a car exploded outside a supermarket a few blocks away, injuring Carlos Blázquez Mulas, a Spanish Royal Guard.

The incidents happened three days after Jaime Mayor Oreja, the Spanish Interior Minister, expressed fears that Eta "would try to sow panic in Spain" in a desperate response to a series of arrests of top-ranking terrorists. Five people were killed by Eta last year, fewer than in any year since 1972.



Tartuffe, a 14-month-old beagle, is rescued after falling into the icy waters of the Ourcq canal in Paris yesterday. At least 30 people have died in France as a result of the two-week cold spell. Many of the victims have been homeless.

WORLD SUMMARY

Policemen 'belonged to satanic sect'

Brussels: Four policemen belonged to Belgium's child sex and murder scandal, a Flemish newspaper reported yesterday (Leyla Linton writes).

De Standaard said an officer with the Charleroi municipal police force had confirmed that three of the four were members of the Institut Abraxas, which police raided last month.

Angola pledge

President Mandela told Jonas Savimbi, the former rebel leader, that South Africa would help to overcome obstacles to peace in Angola. (Michael Binyon writes). He told Mr Savimbi, whose Unita group was armed and trained by the apartheid Government, that Pretoria would help Unita's reconciliation with the Angolan Government.

Imran Khan

A report (December 30) referred to unsubstantiated rumours that Imran Khan and his political party in Pakistan, the Movement for Justice, had received substantial campaign funds from his father-in-law, Sir James Goldsmith. Mr Khan has asked us to make clear that he has not received any such financial support.

Zaire denial

Paris: Alain Le Caro, a former security chief at the Elysée Palace here, has denied reports that he is putting together a mercenary "White Legion" of Europeans and Africans to help the Government of Zaire in its fight against Rwandan-backed rebels. (Reuter).

Le Pen order

Strasbourg: A French court here ordered Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front, to pay one franc in damages for slandering the organisers of a rally against his party. (Reuter).

Russian forces 'steal millions'

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA'S underfunded and demoralised military has received yet another blow to its reputation, amid fresh allegations that senior figures in the armed forces have been stealing millions of pounds.

As the Russian military launches a desperate lobby for more money to pay its under-

funded servicemen, many men in uniform have taken matters into their own hands.

In the latest scandal, sources said yesterday that prosecutors were investigating the loss of hundreds of millions of pounds from the sale two years ago of two warships, the *Admiral* and *Novorossiysk*, to South Korea. Major-General Yur Yakovlev, of the military prosecu-

tor's office, said recently that some 16 generals and more than 80 colonels were under criminal investigation.

By far the most damaging allegations have been made against General Vladimir Semyonov, the former commander of land forces, who was suspended last month by President Yeltsin, accused of taking bribes in return for military contracts.

Belgrade's rebel radio tunes in to discontent

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN BELGRADE

PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC is losing the propaganda battle to the rebel FM Radio B92. Belgrade's only professional independent station, whose slogan is "Don't trust anyone — not even us".

On air round the clock, it now draws 700,000 listeners from the capital's population of two million. Its audience has doubled since demonstrations began seven weeks ago against Mr Milosevic's reversal of municipal election results. Serbia has no independent television and the regime's propaganda machine has vast assets at its disposal, including the country's leading newspapers, the state news agency and radio. But in Belgrade the Government's humourless, lugubrious voice is being undermined in an uneven contest against the 35 staff of B92 and their mix of news, music and satire.

Founded in May 1989 as a youth programme for an experimental six-month period, B92 continued to operate without any state-approved contract for the next seven years. Funded through its own ventures in publishing, video and film production, as well as private donations, it became essential listening for the capital's liberal urban elite, sickened by the socialist regime.

B92's editorial policy promotes democracy, social justice, human rights, respect for minorities and "undermining the morbid seriousness of the totalitarian regime in Serbia". It was first closed down by Mr Milosevic in March 1991 when he crushed demonstrations in Belgrade. Though it reopened soon afterwards, the experience had hardened

B92's opposition to the State. Closed down again early last December after it had been jammed for several days — although the Milosevic regime denies this — B92 was in action again two days later after intense international pressure, and was grudgingly granted a contract.

Two US-funded radio stations, Radio Free Europe and the Voice of America, had threatened to rebroadcast its reports unless B92 was reopened, and its highly placed defenders include Ivor Roberts, the British Ambassador to Belgrade, and Al Gore, the US Vice-President.

"We have succeeded in breaking the regime's monopoly of information," said

Sasha Mirkovic, director of B92. "We are the only radio station that is reporting what is happening on the streets of Belgrade. When they banned us it was the greatest advertisement we could hope for."

As B92 has only a weak signal, it cannot be heard outside Belgrade and to extend its reach it set up a network of five other local radio stations to rebroadcast its news programmes. All have subsequently been put under pressure by the Government, either through jamming, forced takeovers of the management, or bans.

The station is also at a financial disadvantage. The average monthly salary for a state journalist is about £750, enough for a comfortable living by Serbian standards. Senior reporters among the B92 staff in their cramped, heavily barricaded tower-block offices a few blocks away from the state television centre earn £225 a month.

Yet the international attention focused on Belgrade and the city's support for the station have ensured its survival.

"If the State tried to close us down again it would have even more problems than it has now," said Veran Martić, the station's senior editor. "We are seen by the people to be not only a free medium but part of a movement fighting for freedom, and that combination is very attractive to the people of Belgrade, the foreign media and international community. Milosevic must consent to the protesters' demands. He no longer has the Army, the Church or the capital. He is losing it fast."

Montenegro break threat

Montenegro, a junior partner in the Yugoslav federation, gave a warning that unless President Milosevic conceded to the opposition, it would boycott all federal institutions and may secede (Dessa Trevisan writes).

Relations have been strained since Mr Milosevic's wife, Mirjana Markovic, set up her own Communist party and criticised Montenegrin leaders. The Montenegrin parliamentary Speaker accused Mr Milosevic of damaging Yugoslavia's interests. Recently Montenegro has been going ahead with privatisation and launching diplomatic initiatives in Washington.

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DIAL A PHONE

Debate rages over Clinton's plea for sex trial delay

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

WHEN a subdued Newt Gingrich left the House on Tuesday for his narrow re-election as Speaker and apology for past behaviour, President Clinton asked him to offer congratulations. He should have thanked him as well. Mr Gingrich's admission of ethical misjudgements gives the President a lifeline of hope that the spotlight will be diverted from his own problems.

On Monday the Supreme Court will consider whether to allow the case of William Jefferson Clinton v Paula Corbin Jones to proceed. Mrs Jones is seeking \$700,000 (\$413,000) in damages for defamation and violation of her civil rights.

According to Mrs Jones, 30, former Arkansas state employee, she was enticed into Mr Clinton's hotel room on May 8, 1991, by his state trooper, where Mr Clinton, then state Governor, "nibbled" her neck, exposed himself and asked for oral sex. Mr Clinton says he does not remember the incident.

The President's embarrassment aside, the potential damage if the case proceeds is probably slight: stories of his womanising were well aired before the election. But unlike the other ethical charges against Mr Clinton, the Jones case raises a fundamental constitutional question: is the President above civil law while in office?

Mr Clinton's lawyers argue that the trial should be postponed until he has left office or fear of setting a precedent that would make future presidents the target of opportunistic

legal actions. They also say that high-profile civil actions are distracting from the President's job of carrying out public business.

The arguments have aroused widespread unease. The principle that the President is not a monarch, above the common people, is fundamental to American government, as is the legal pronouncement more than a century ago that "no man in this country is so high that he is above the law". To Mr Clinton's insistence that he is

ident is far stronger than the media have let on. In particular, more attention is now paid to the fact that Mrs Jones described the incident to four separate people almost immediately afterwards. They agree that the details on which the case is based are largely the same as those given at the time.

Her only significant claim to emerge later is that Mr Clinton's genitals had certain "distinguishing characteristics". Opinions differ over whether that observation is a ploy to force a settlement, so humiliating would be the task of disproving it. Even in a country where people pored over front-page diagrams of Ronald Reagan's colon, there is sympathy for an element of presidential privacy.

The Supreme Court judges have several options short of proceeding with the full trial. They could allow Mrs Jones's lawyers to take statements to preserve evidence, but delay the trial until Mr Clinton leaves office. They could halt the trial after the "discovery" stage, although that would require the President to give evidence under oath. Or the President could settle without admitting guilt.

The evidence against the President is far stronger than the media have let on

simply asking for the legal process to be postponed, his critics reply that justice delayed is often justice denied.

Support for the trial to proceed has grown in recent weeks, with a striking change of mood among leading commentators. Newsweek's Evan Thomas, who originally called Mrs Jones "some sleazy woman with big hair coming out of the trailer parks", argued this week that "her case is not weak enough to be simply or quickly thrown out of the courts". A widely quoted analysis in *The American Lawyer* in November held that "the evidence against the Pres-



Paula Jones is seeking \$700,000 from Bill Clinton for defamation and violation of civil rights

Albright vows to nurture ties with Europe

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

MADEIRAINE ALBRIGHT yesterday renewed Washington's commitment to a strong transatlantic partnership and said America must remain a "European power".

In an opening statement before her confirmation hearings on Capitol Hill as US Secretary of State, Ms Albright pledged her commitment to European security and to the enlargement of Nato as well as the important shared goal of a democratic Russia.

She said that history had proved the importance of the transatlantic relationship after two world wars and argued that a larger Nato, no longer divided by the Iron Curtain, was central to future stability in the region in the post-Cold War era.

America must remain a European power, she said. "Our purpose is to do for Europe's East what Nato did for Europe's West... to build a more co-operative and integrated Europe."

Her statements will bring welcome succour to Britain and other European governments, where there has been concern in the weeks since President Clinton's re-election that the United States now appeared more dedicated to stronger ties with Asia than with its former allies in Europe.

Mr Clinton's first foreign visit after the election was to the Pacific Rim, he has organised several bilateral meetings with President Jiang Zemin of China, and is being pressed by the American business community to push forward into the expanding Asian marketplace.

Ms Albright, who if confirmed as Secretary of State would become the highest ranking female in American political history, said during her confirmation hearings before the Foreign Relations Committee that America must also remain a Pacific power and pledged to work with Congress to repay Washington's debt to the United Nations.

But the true focus of her opening remarks sent a clear message about her own enduring interest in Europe and its common security.

Ms Albright sees a unified Europe as something of a personal crusade. She is the only Secretary of State in living memory to speak Russian, not to mention French, Polish and, of course, Czech.

Ms Albright yesterday rejected any criticism of Nato enlargement. "We cannot and should not maintain the Iron Curtain as an artificial boundary after the Cold War," she declared. "What Nato must and will do is to keep open the door for membership to all European nations."

She will be treading the difficult path leading to Nato's summit meeting in July. The alliance then must decide which countries will join first and how much reassurance and security guarantees should be offered to Russia.

She declared yesterday that a democratic Russia must be the shared goal of the alliance and said America remained deeply determined to rid Bosnia-Herzegovina of its ethnic strife.

Ms Albright has been one of the principle defenders in America of the war crimes tribunal in The Hague and its ability to enable reconciliation in the Balkans and establish a precedent to deter future atrocities.

Although she was expected to face tough questioning from senators yesterday, Ms Albright's confirmation is seen as a certainty in Washington. Jesse Helms, the committee chairman and fierce opponent of many Clinton appointees, has already expressed his admiration for the new nominee.



Albright: crusade for a unified Europe

Stress not pesticides seen as cause of Gulf War Syndrome

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

BATTLEFIELD stress has emerged as an important factor in solving the puzzle of Gulf War Syndrome, according to a White House report.

The report sharply criticised the Pentagon, saying its investigation of Iraqi chemical and biological weapons in the Gulf "lacked vigour, fell short on investigative grounds and stretched credibility".

President Clinton's advisory committee on Gulf War illnesses concluded that no single cause could be found for the ailments afflicting many Gulf veterans, including memory loss, fatigue, insomnia, headaches and muscle pains.

The report focused on psychological stress. It said recent animal and human studies had revealed numerous pathways connecting the brain to the rest of the body through which stress could find physical expression. The finding continued: "Stress manifests itself in diverse ways, and is likely to be an important contributing factor to the broad range of

physiological and psychological illness reported by Gulf War veterans." The report concluded that it was unlikely that hazards cited by veterans' groups — exposure to pesticides, depleted uranium and smoke from burning oil wells — could explain their symptoms.

The committee also thought it unlikely that low-level exposure to chemical and biological weapons had caused long-term health effects. However, until last June the US Army had failed to disclose that thousands of troops may have been briefly exposed to nerve gas when an Iraqi ammunition dump was blown up. On Mr Clinton's orders, the committee will now oversee the Pentagon's intensified investigation.

Sailors safe after month in liferaft

BY QUENTIN LETTS

TWO men have survived in a liferaft for almost a month after their yacht sank in the Pacific near Hawaii.

Richard Enslow, 20, and David Summers, 25, were shipwrecked on December 9 while they were fishing. They survived by drinking rainwater and eating raw fish.

When they were rescued by a fishing boat on Monday their spirits were low, although physically they were in fair shape, suffering only slight dehydration. Their families in Honolulu had almost given up hope of seeing them alive again. Mr Enslow's father said: "I figured they were gone. It's kind of a miracle."

The men had carved farewell messages on a plastic paddle in the liferaft. "I hope to see you in my next life," read Mr Summers's message to his family. Mr Enslow's message said: "I hope I make it but I don't give the family my love."

Their 48ft yacht, *Lady Aud*, sank in high seas soon after they decided to head back to port to get treatment for Mr Summers, who had dislocated his shoulder in an earlier fall. The weather continued to blow hard, and the liferaft was capsized a day later by a whale, with the loss of their remaining equipment.

"It was rain and more rain, big waves and lightning," said Mr Summers. "We'd stay drenched for days. We caught every kind of fish to eat."

Their difficulties were compounded when the inflated raft developed a leak and the pump fell overboard. The pair had to blow air into the raft every 20 minutes, with their severely chafed lips. The process robbed them of sleep and created additional fears about falling prey to sharks.

After being rescued, the pair contacted their families. Mr Enslow's call was taken by his brother, who said he "nearly hung up the phone", with the shock of hearing the brother he presumed to be dead.

Romantic judge granted divorce

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

JUDGE Kimba Wood, the onetime candidate for US Attorney-General who became embroiled in a highly publicised marital dispute, has been granted a divorce.

Judge Wood, who was romantically linked to a Manhattan financier, Frank Richardson, won the divorce from her husband Michael Kramer. Last summer she claimed that Mr Kramer, a *Time* magazine columnist, had denied her sex for a year.

At the height of media interest in the case, Ms Wood, 52, was given the sobriquet "the love judge". Mr Richardson, whose diaries carried affectionate references to her, is in the throes of his own divorce. His chaotic attachment to Judge Wood became the talk of New York society.

Judge Wood was previously best known for jailing Michael



Wood: failed to become US Attorney-General

Milken, the Wall Street "junk bonds" financier, and appeared set for high political office until disclosures that she once hired an illegal immigrant as a nanny for her son. After extracts from Mr Richardson's diaries were made public in court, her reputation as a serious jurist was dented.

US tells Taleban to curb drugs

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States has told the Taleban Islamic militia in Afghanistan that it must control the flow of drugs if it is to expect any international recognition for its regime.

A strong message was given to Mullah Muhammad Hassan, the deputy leader of the Taleban ruling council, during meetings with John Holzman, a senior official at the US Embassy in Pakistan.

The talks, the highest-level contact between the United States and the Taleban since its capture of Kabul at the end of September, focused on the group's wish for greater acceptance. US State Department officials said yesterday that it was uncertain how much could be done by the Taleban leaders. Afghanistan is the second-largest producer of opium in the world.

Latin American 'assassin bug' killing thousands

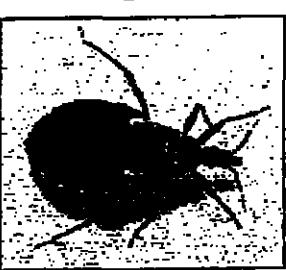
FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

A HEALTH study in Honduras has found that 300,000 of the country's 5.5 million population are infected with a blood-thirsty parasite that attacks the heart, weakening it and eventually causing heart failure.

Officials calculate 20 per cent of those infected will die from the incurable disease over the next few years.

"Some 65,000 people infected with the disease are in a terminal stage... and will die soon," said Virginia Figueroa, the Deputy Minister of Public Health in the impoverished Central American country. Most would die within two years, although a few could survive for a decade or more.

The Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) estimates that 16-18 million people in Latin America — 4.5 per cent of the population — have been infected. The Washington-based organis-



Bug has deadly parasite

ation believes that the disease infects one million new victims annually — and causes 45,000 deaths — mostly in Central and South America. Occasionally it has appeared in the southern US, but is unknown elsewhere.

The illness was identified by Carlos dos Chagas, a Brazilian doctor, in 1909. It is spread mainly by insects carrying the parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*, but can also be contracted through a blood transfusion. The winged, mosquito-sized insect, *Triatomina infestans*, known as "the kissing bug" because of

its mode of attack, or the "assassin bug", inhabits cracks in the walls of rural dirt-floor homes. It can also breed outdoors in the wild.

The insect drops on the beds of its sleeping victims and feeds on exposed facial skin near the mouth. The parasites are not transmitted through the bite of the insect, however; they are deposited on the skin of the victims with the insect's faeces.

"It's a bloodthirsty bug," said Daniel Epstein, of the PAHO. "It feeds at night and is attracted by carbon dioxide. It's pretty gross. When the victim scratches the insect bite, he inadvertently helps the parasite to penetrate the bloodstream."

The disease can take years to manifest itself. Initially it creates a weak feeling that often subsides for months or years. When it returns, the disease attacks the heart, the nervous system and the digestive tract. The damage to the heart is irreversible.

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On Day Four of our guide to healthier eating, the view from the doctor's surgery

Why the classic British meal is good for you

AN evening meal of a diet cola drink, burgers and chips, snatched while watching television, is unlikely to do much to improve either the future of the diner's arteries, or their family life.

But the misuse of such fast foods doesn't mean that they are necessarily dangerous. If "modern" food is as poisonous as its critics suggest, there should be evidence that there is less malignant disease in countries where agriculture is still primitive and the food is organically grown. In fact, the reverse is true. Our foods do contain potential carcinogens, but the amount doesn't seem to be increasing.

There is, however, a danger that trace elements and vitamins can be lost in the mass-processing of food, and it is then that we may need to turn to supplements. The medical profession has always maintained that a well-balanced diet should provide all that the body needs, but this approach ignores growing evidence that supplements can sometimes be beneficial. For example, extra folic acid in tablet form before conception can dramatically reduce the incidence of spina bifida, hydrocephalus, hare lip and other congenital disorders.

Folic acid also helps to protect adults from coronary heart disease. Likewise, supplements of Vitamins C, E and beta-carotene reduce the likelihood of cardiovascular disease, and possibly some malignant diseases.

Folic acid is found in fresh oranges, peas and potatoes but however high the vegetable plate is heaped it can never provide enough of the vitamin to reduce the incidence of damage to babies.

A diet should be rich in Vitamin C, found in fruit and vegetables, and Vitamin E, which also occurs in vegetables, as well as olive oil and nuts.

Scurvy is the best known of the vitamin deficiencies. It was once famously the curse of mariners but it is still not extinct and is occasionally diagnosed in tramps, squatters, recluses and extreme food faddists. The cause, inadequate Vitamin C, leads to an increased number of infections, poor wound healing, and possibly greater numbers



Dr Thomas Stuttford on the benefits of a hearty traditional breakfast, why we sometimes need supplements to replace vitamins lost in mass-produced food, why we should trust our bodies to tell us what they need, and how to spot nutritional deficiencies

of heart cases and malignant disease.

Deficiency in Vitamin B1, thiamine, is also more common than might be expected, and even occurs in people, particularly women, who take trouble to have what would seem to be a healthy diet. The early signs of thiamine deficiency are ill-defined but include irritability, loss of appetite, vague abdominal discomfort and poor memory. Diets deficient in any one of the vitamin groups are frequently short of others in the same group and those taking them should be treated with a Vitamin B complex tablet.

Breakfast is an ideal time to start to correct dietary deficiencies. Fruit juice provides vitamins, porridge is heavy with starch, and fish, eggs or lean bacon all provide protein and help to correct the blood sugar level.

A traditional lunch of fish or meat, two vegetables, followed by fruit or pudding supplies a good balance of protein, fat and carbohydrate, and a satisfactory mix of vitamins.

Tea has more medical value than is usually assumed. Taken with skimmed milk, it provides important flavonoids, the antioxidants which help to preserve the arteries, and appreciable quantities of the Vitamin B complex, as well as 16 per cent of the daily recommended intake of calcium.

Dinner in the evening should be neither too late, too heavy nor too rich in fats. But even if we don't copy the late continental dinner, we can in Britain learn from the Mediterranean diet. A greater reliance on olive oil rather than animal fats, a higher intake of fruit, less binge drinking, but

more wine, particularly red wine, would all do us good.

Many people associate the typical British diet with over-eating, but there is no reason why a well-balanced, traditional menu need promote gluttony. More malnutrition is now diagnosed among food faddists than in the rest of the community, and too often they have followed the advice of one crank after another until their diet is deficient in essential nutrients.

Fortunately, our senses of



taste and smell have evolved so that we enjoy our food. Our sense of hunger encourages us to feed sensibly and well and we should forget much of the unsubstantiated opinion we read. Our diet should provide not only the fuel to keep our essential organs working, but also the raw materials out of which our bodies are built.

The human body is made of protein, and amino acids — which are the constituent parts of protein — have to be derived from our diet so that muscles and life-preserving organs can be maintained. First-class proteins — that is, those that the body particularly needs — are found in meat, eggs, cheese, and milk. The traditionally accepted view is that about half a person's daily intake of protein should be in this first-class form.

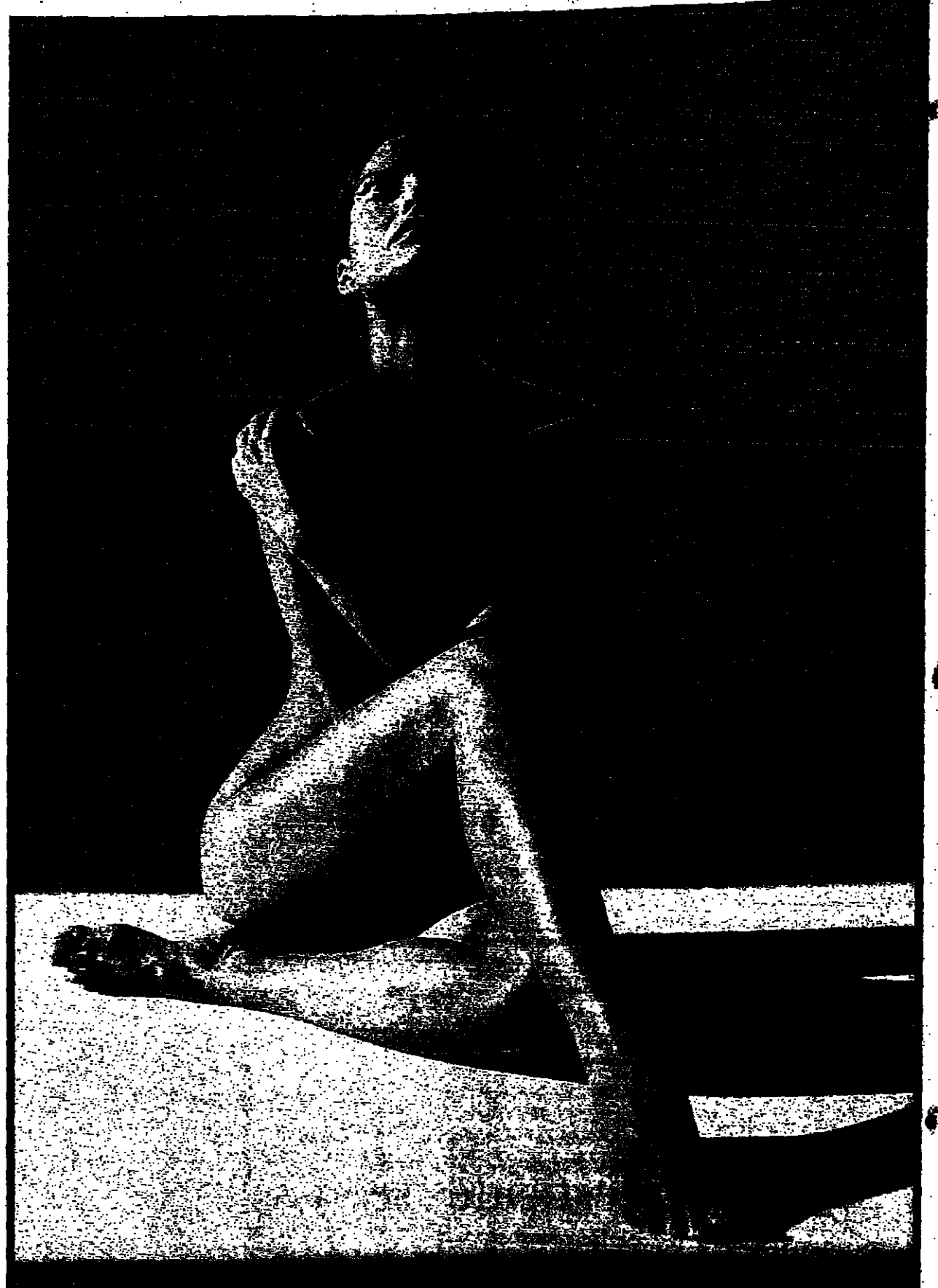
It is possible to be a vegetarian, and to survive on vegetable proteins, but this takes careful thought and planning. An interesting piece of research several years ago involved a group of sportswomen, mainly

vegetarian, at an American university. As with many women who take an inordinate amount of exercise, they had stopped ovulating and menstruating. It was found that when the women were given steaks or other meat two or three times a week, their periods returned. Likewise in Europe after the Second World War, fertility was improved when animal protein again became available.

Unless vegetarians are very careful, their diet may lack certain vital constituents, in particular Iron, Vitamins D and B12. Iron, contained in vegetables is less well absorbed than it is from meat, and anaemia is also commonly found among strict vegetarians.

One disadvantage of red meat is that a certain amount of fat is eaten at the same time. Fat is, however, an integral part of the well-balanced diet. It is not uncommon in medical practice to see patients who have damaged their health by following an absurdly low-fat diet. Fats form part of all healthy cells, they are essential for the absorption of the life-preserving vitamins, they are part of the structure of hormones, and they are rich in energy. Weight for weight, each ounce of fat provides twice as much energy as does one ounce of carbohydrate. And fat has another important quality in that it makes other foods palatable by lubricating a meal and enhancing the flavour of many foods.

Fats should not form more than 30 per cent of the daily diet, whereas at the moment the average intake in the West is about 40 per cent. Fats are divided into saturated fats, mainly derived from animals, and unsaturated fats, contained in most, but not all, vegetable oils. The proportion of saturated fats to unsaturated fats should be reduced. Carbohydrates provide the



To maintain health it is essential that we take in sufficient nutrients and do not take dieting to extremes

glucose which is the primary source of energy for the human machine. Just as it is a mistake to cut back too drastically on fats, so it is to deny the body carbohydrates. The phrase "empty carbohydrates" is particularly misleading: we would not survive without them.

The most exciting research into nutrition over the past decade has involved the antioxidants. These neutralise the free radicals which damage a body's healthy cells. People whose diet is rich in antioxidants show increased resistance to heart and malignant disease. Many people, particularly the elderly, may be at an increased risk of developing these diseases because of a low anti-oxidant intake.

Fortunately, red wine, some beers, as well as tea, contain

flavonoids which have strong anti-oxidant powers. But tea and alcohol account for only a fraction of the necessary anti-oxidant intake. Vitamins B and C are found in green vegetables and highly coloured fruit, as well as in peppers and a host of herbs. Vegetables grown in soil rich in some trace elements, such as selenium, also provide antioxidants.

The World Health Authority recommends five portions of vegetables or fruit daily. Few will be able to follow this advice, but the average person in Britain would do well to have breakfast, lunch, and tea, such as they had when children, add rather more vegetables than fruit, rather less fat, and a moderate intake of red wine and the appropriate vitamin supplements.

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Food for thought

Manipulation — or just a word in the right ear?

The hidden world of the lobby is explored on television tonight. Here, Sir Tim Bell makes a rare defence of his profession to Michael Cockerell

Sir Tim Bell likes to operate away from the public gaze. His trade is influence and his clients are big men: presidents and princes, captains of industry and media barons. Although he prefers to be a hidden hand, Bell talks for the first time about his work in *A Word In The Right Ear*, a television documentary about political lobbyists.

The past 20 years has seen a remarkable growth in lobbying in Britain. Lobbying is an industry worth more than £500 million a year. At last autumn's party conferences there were more lobbyists than delegates.

Bell believes that the recent cash for questions stories have given the whole business an undeservedly sleazy image. "It isn't about fancy footwork and sinister manipulation. Its purpose is advocacy, making the best of a case, saying how it should be best put across, gathering intelligence, identifying the weak points in your opponents' arguments, deciding who to target, seeking to open doors and knowing how to put the pressure, say through the media."

"When you are lobbying government for a change in the law, you try to present it as though it would be an advantage to the powers that be to change it. The whole skill of lobbying is to take the client's views and present them in the most persuasive way."

With his range of companies under the umbrella Chime Communications, Bell flits easily between the inter-related worlds of financial PR, corporate strategy, political lobbying and crisis management. He pioneered the integrated communications strategy for companies, arguing that everything they are seen to do contributes to their image and can affect the success rate when lobbying government.

The companies Bell commands form the SAS of the lobbying world. The grand staircase at his Mayfair offices is a pictorial record of friends and clients in high places. The wall is lined with huge, colour blow-ups of such titans as Margaret Thatcher, Rupert Murdoch, F.W. de Klerk, the Sultan of Brunei and Lords Weinstock, Hanson and King.

Bell tends to deal with the top level of his 458 different clients and companies personally. His specialist agency, Lowe Bell Political, does some of the more detailed political lobbying. "We act as a bridge, an advocate or a hired hand," says Bell. "We will give advice to anybody who we think we can do a decent job for and who will reward us properly."

Bell says the people who work for him know the political system from the inside. Members of his staff have worked for the Brussels Commission, or in Whitehall, in the political parties or as advisers to Cabinet ministers.

Two of his men have worked as the most senior political



Margaret Thatcher once described Sir Tim Bell as "my line to the British people"

PM and say "Now, look here, PM, why don't you support this lobby? It is just crass to imagine that such a conversation would ever take place. You would ruin your relationship and you would not be invited to discuss any matter with the Prime Minister ever again."

Bell first built up his connections 20 years ago when he was chairman of Saatchi and Saatchi, which had landed the Tories' advertising account for the 1979 election. He struck an immediate rapport with Mrs Thatcher, who later described him as "my line to the British people". Bell helped her to three successive victories and she came to regard him as a good luck charm. "He possesses more sensitive antennae than most politicians. He could pick up quicker than anyone else a change in the national mood. I relied a great deal on his

presentational advice," said Mrs T. In turn, he would send her lavish bouquets when he knew she was down.

It was under the impetus of Mrs Thatcher's brand of market economics that lobbying burgeoned in the Eighties. Many of the recent allegations of lobbying sleaze have their origins in that period. Bell says that whatever other lobbyists may have done, he and his companies would never lie, cheat or bribe. "We behave properly, we don't want improper relationships. It's horrible going round telling fibs; you can never remember what they are and you spend your life in a deceitful, devious sort of mood. I hate all that. I've spent years being told the advertising industry makes people buy products they don't want. I've spent years being a PR man and being told I manipulate the media. I now have a lobbying company and I'm being told we go round the place bribing governments to

change policy to suit our clients' arguments. I've never seen it and I've never experienced it."

Bell has the ability to laugh at himself and his personal charm is such that, according to legend, dogs cross the road to be patted by him. Against that, he has been credited with spectacular gaffes — such as David Mellor's "happy family" photocall during the Antonio de Sancha affair.

Bell could lay claim to a string of successes — but he prefers not to do so. Partly because he won't breach client confidentiality. And partly, he says, because "we are only ever part of a team". But he does talk about his involvement in what he calls "the greatest lobbying campaign of all in terms of reaching out and touching everybody in this country — the lobby that pushed for the National Lottery". He says G Tech — the American parent company of Camelot — realised that it

would be worth very big money to win the franchise. So they appointed as lobbyists both Bell's and other lobbying agencies. And they hired a number of former Tory Cabinet ministers to advise on how Government took decisions. "They were buying everybody up so their opponents couldn't use them ... I can't see anything wrong with it. Although I haven't won the lottery — yet," Bell laughs.

In some ways, of course, he has. He is now the largest private shareholder in Chime Communications, which has grown into a £20 million publicly listed company. But what would Bell's future be if his latest attempts at marketing the Tories to the voters comes to grief, and he is faced with a Labour government?

"There are those who say there'll be a greater need for lobbyists, because most of industry is Conservative and therefore they'll need to have people to explain to them how the Labour Party works."

Meanwhile, Lowe Bell Political has co-operated with the Post Office workers' union, the UCU, to prevent the Government from privatising the Post Office.

Privately, he offers tantalising glimpses of his encounters with Tony Blair. He tells how he gave informal advice when Blair asked him at a party how he should go about becoming leader, shortly before John Smith's death. "Don't push for it, just let it happen naturally — and if the opportunity comes, grab it with both hands," was Bell's counsel.

He says of Blair: "I have met him twice, but I don't know him at all. Anybody who gets to be Leader of the Opposition and may be Prime Minister has got to be a person of considerable genius." But what did he make of Blair's public promise to control lobbyists. "If you want to stamp out lobbying, it would be a bit like John Welford and prostitution. He didn't stamp it out — he made it done behind closed doors. So probably the much more sensible route would be to try to make sure it is as open as possible."

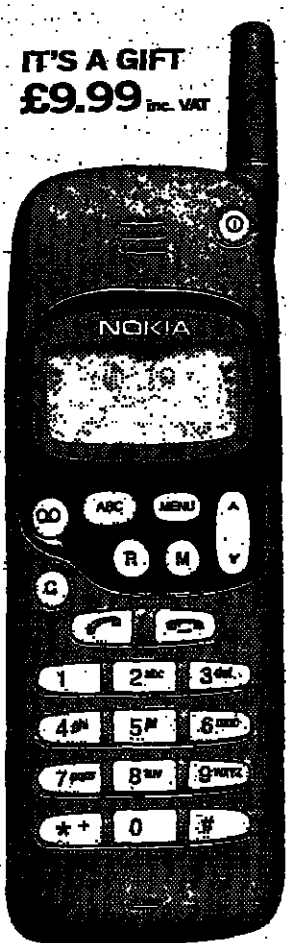
● Michael Cockerell's *A Word In The Right Ear*, BBC2, 9.30 tonight

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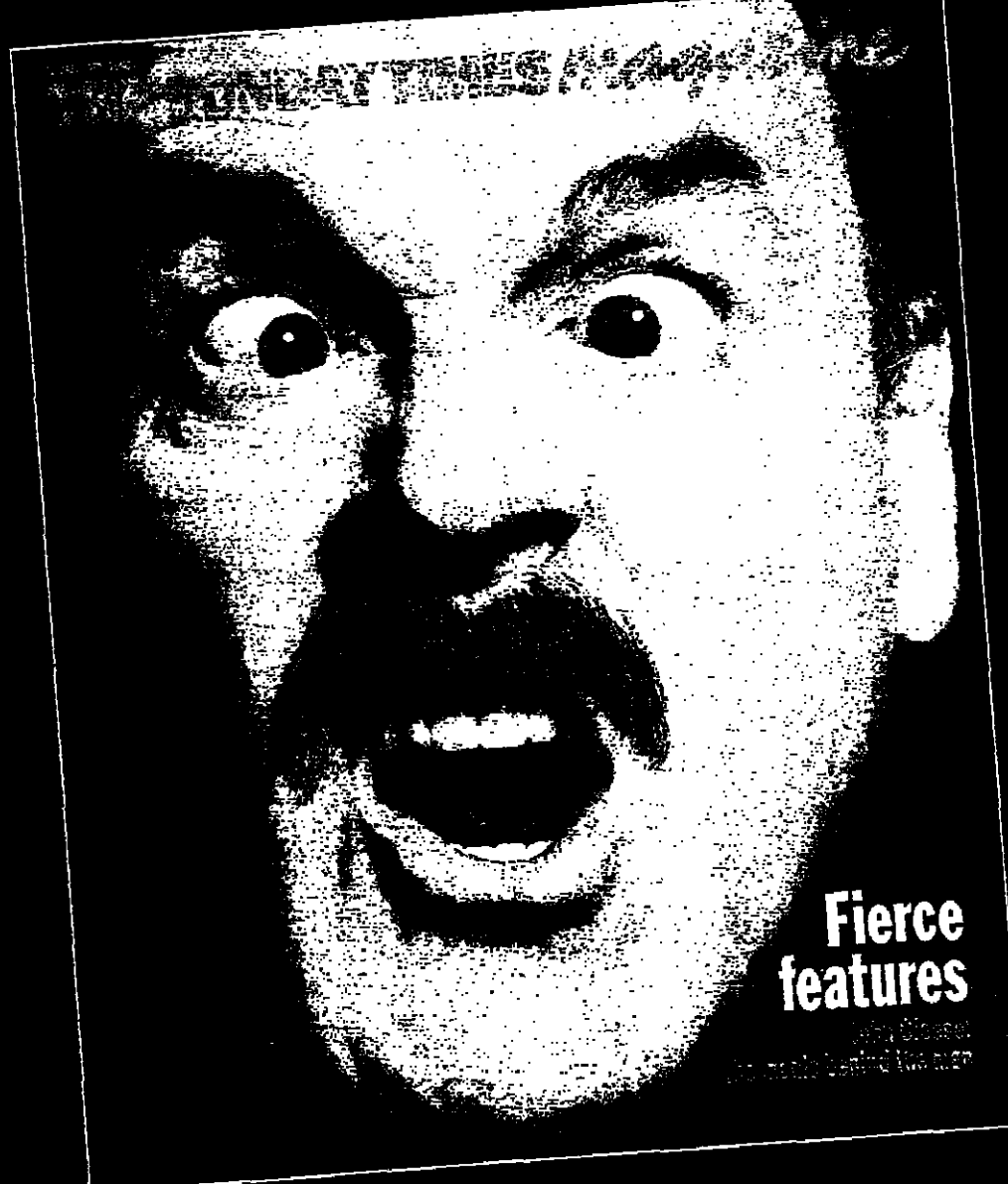
advisers to successive Prime Ministers. Stephen Sherbourne to Mrs Thatcher and Jonathan Hill to John Major. Both went back to help Mr Major with his re-election campaign as leader 18 months ago — and both are expected to be seconded in the coming election. Mr Major's current political secretary, Howell James, is one of Bell's closest friends. Bell first got him a job in the Cabinet Office ten years ago, and paid his salary.

Both Bell and James were hovering discreetly in the wings as the Prime Minister gave the first of his new-style presidential press conferences this week. Bell is back in favour with the Tory high command after a period in the wilderness following Mrs Thatcher's departure.

I asked Bell how useful it was having his people in No 10. "It's extremely useful, because they will probably take your call. Whether they will supply you with information is another matter. Half our business is knowing who to talk to."

And it must also be useful, I suggested, when they leave No 10 and come back to work for you. "Of course it's to our advantage, but not in the sense — which I'm sure you're not implying — that they are able to pick up the telephone to the

THE SUNDAY TIMES



Fierce features

"I have a genuine fear of boring people or repeating myself..."

John Cleese, on the eve of his latest manic movie *Fierce Creatures*, opens up to Georgina Howell

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

What Scots have against the Queen

The Crown is associated with the Tories, says Magnus Linklater

I doubt if we are any wiser about the state of the monarchy after Tuesday night's ill-tempered, raucous, trivial and confused debate on ITV. This was sound-bite television at its most puerile. Even the widely touted claim that 2.5 million people cast their votes is open to question: multiple calls were not only possible but frequent, and others complained that they were unable to get through at all. Bob Worcester, of the MORI organisation, tells me he tested the system by phoning ten times and managed to record his vote on all but three occasions. "I was disenfranchised three times," he complains in mock outrage.

But in one respect at least the vote was interesting. While most of the United Kingdom came out in favour of the monarchy by a respectable two-thirds majority, Scotland bucked the trend. The vote was 56 per cent against, with only 44 per cent in support. This is a surprising, but not a freak result. MORI's own polling, based on proper sampling, suggests that there is now a 15 per cent difference of opinion between Scotland and the rest of Britain when it comes to the role of the monarchy. Even Wales shows no sign of going as far; its result broadly echoed that of England and Northern Ireland.

For any member of the Royal Family who was glued to the box during the evening, this must have been the most disappointing result of the night. They have invested a lot in Scotland - physically and emotionally. It is a place they feel at home. They travel north as often as possible, and not just to shoot furred animals. Prince Charles finds solace on its far-flung islands; the Queen retreats with relief to Balmoral; the Queen Mother is never happier than in her Caithness castle, and the Princess Royal is often at Murrayfield to support the Scottish rugby team; indeed, to judge by her son's sporting prowess, he could be wearing the blue jersey himself in the not too distant future.

On the whole they are well-received. The days when letter-boxes were blown up because they bore the insignia of the Queen (the Queen is Scotland's first, not second Elizabeth) are long past. The Queen has not been rudely treated in public since she was booed by students at Stirling University in 1972, an event which caused something of a national scandal. The crowds may be thinner these days, but it would be hard to claim that Scotland has become a hotbed of republican sentiment. Having helped to build the British Empire and gone to war on its behalf, the Scottish nation has not, until recently, had much difficulty in considering itself British or supporting a British monarch. Even the Scottish Nationalists, who have sometimes toyed with republicanism, have been careful not to challenge the Queen's status directly. Only

one of the party's MPs believes she should be replaced; the rest talk vaguely of reassessing the role of the monarchy in the event of independence.

What has changed is not so much the institution that the Queen represents as the nation she rules. To many Scots, and particularly the young, the term Great Britain has become a blurred and even alien concept. They think of themselves as Scottish rather than British, and they associate the Queen with an English establishment run from London rather than someone who represents the whole United Kingdom. Because there is a long tradition of Scottish democracy, bound up with a kirk which has never acknowledged the monarch as its head, this touches a familiar nerve. Acknowledging authority from a distance has never been a strong Scottish trait.

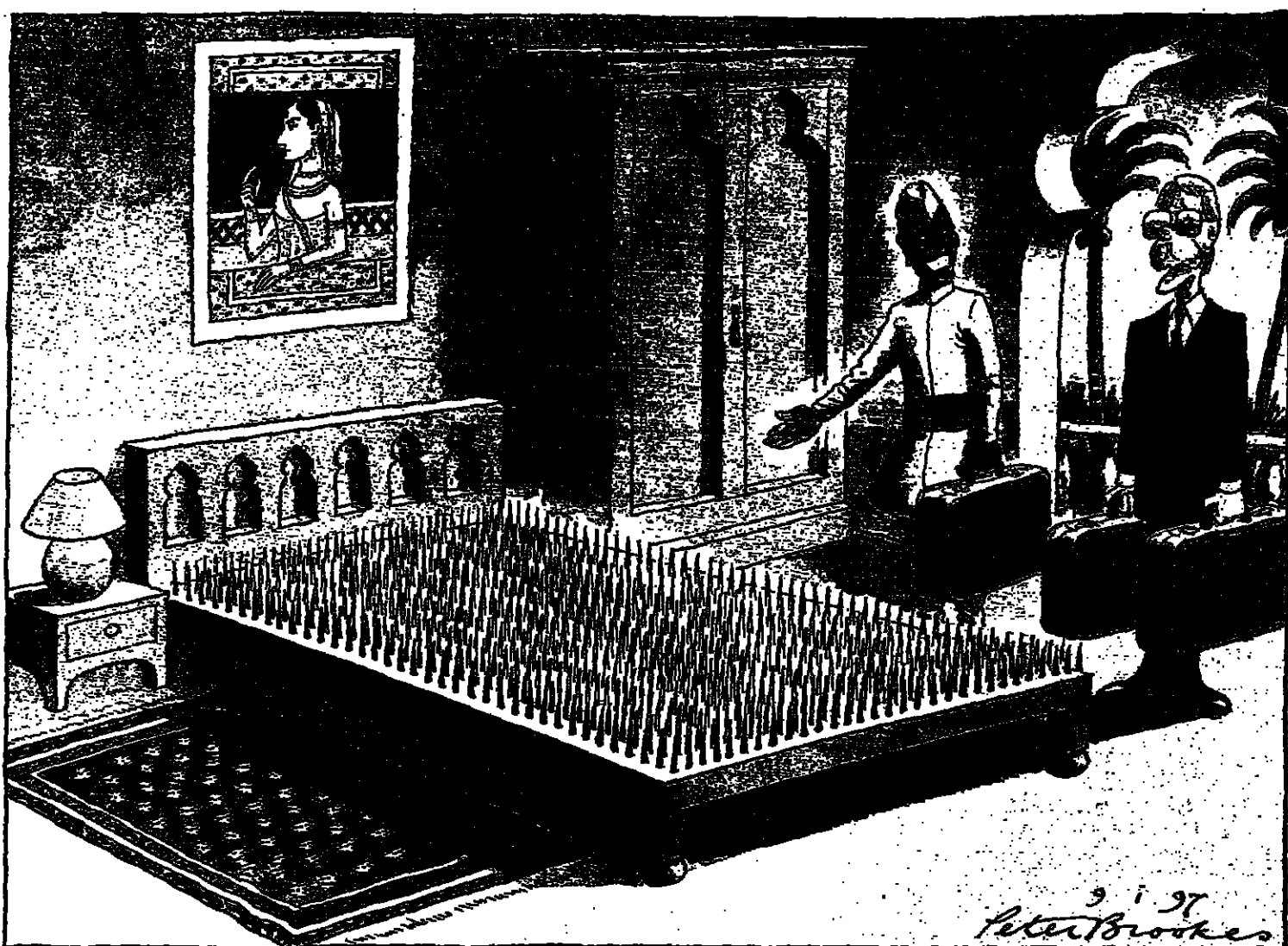
As the political climate has changed, with election after election demonstrating Scotland's growing disaffection from the Conservative Government, the monarchy has been drawn into the debate. It represents, after all, the status quo, a phrase which is now synonymous with Tory policy. When the Queen used the occasion of her Silver Jubilee in 1977 to remind her subjects of the "benefits which Union has conferred", it was seen as a fair statement of what she stood for. Were she to make the same speech today, there would be outrage.

Last Tuesday night I experienced a moment of delight I have never known in the theatre before. We went to see Richard Eyre's production of *Gypsies and Dolls* at the Royal National Theatre. It is a revival of his production of 1982. I was then chairman of the Arts Council. I saw that production at least three times, partly because I enjoyed it so much, partly because it was my job to show people who might influence arts funding that they would enjoy. Where Richard Eyre has changed the 1980s production, it has, I think, been for the better - in particular, the Havana scene worked better than I remember it. The great difference however was in the reaction of the audience.

In the 1980s, the audiences for *Gypsies and Dolls* were broadly contemporary with the piece itself, which was first produced in 1950 on Broadway. Few of them would have seen the original production, but most would have known with the music from the long-playing record; many would have seen the London production or the 1955 film, with Marlon Brando as Sky Masterson and Frank Sinatra miscast as Nathan Detroit. The 1982 production was brilliant, but the mood of the audience then was at least partly nostalgic for we were revisiting our youth of 30 years before. On Tuesday evening, the audience was a younger one, partly no doubt because the school term was about to start after the Christmas holidays. There were A-level students, as well as some younger children with their grandparents. Something like a third of the audience were in their thirties or early forties, and would not have been born when *Gypsies and Dolls* was first produced; another third seemed to be in their teens or twenties, so

would be seen as an overtly political statement on behalf of the Conservative Party, because to speak up for the Union is to oppose constitutional change. She would sound just like John Major. All this is had luck for the Queen herself, who would probably be quite at ease ruling over a devoted Scotland, and for her successor, Charles (who is Duke of Rothesay as well as Prince of Wales), who is a positive enthusiast for reform. It also plays into the hands of the more virulently anti-English wing of the Scottish National Party, which will see the poll as evidence that the tide is flowing in their favour. They will argue that if the Scots want to drop the monarchy, the fastest way of achieving that is to vote SNP. I would not be surprised to see the issue of the Royal Family featuring large in their election campaign.

But it would be premature, and wrong, to conclude from the evidence of one poll that Scots have turned against the monarchy and are on the road to republicanism. What the poll does suggest is that their attitude to constitutional issues is different from their English counterparts, and that they are more inclined to question the role of the monarch should play. They sense that change is finally due in the way they are governed. And they think that the Queen's role in Scotland may well have to change too.



"WE WANTED YOU TO FEEL AT HOME, SAHIB..."

Go on rocking the boat

My first visit to the theatre came one Christmas in the early 1930s. I was taken to see *Cinderella* at the Prince's Theatre in Bristol. I can remember the principal boy, a rather athletic young blonde who was said to be the sweetheart of the dashing amateur captain of the Somerset cricket team. I have been going to the theatre ever since, and saw John Gielgud's wartime *Hamlet*. I also saw Rex Harrison in the first London run of *My Fair Lady*.

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I came out of *Gypsies and Dolls* feeling like a million dollars - and so did an audience 50 years younger

perhaps their mothers had not been born in 1950.

It was when Clive Rowe, as Nicely-Nicely Johnson, was singing *Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat* that a moment came that I had never known before in the theatre. Of course, this song has always been a showstopper, indeed it is the classic showstopper, inevitably followed by several encores. In the 1982 production it was sung with great success by David Healy, a white singer. This time the song seemed to take off in a quite different way - Clive Rowe has a voice like a black Stradivarius. The

young audience joined in with rhythmic clapping. After about the sixth encore, and in demanding a seventh, the audience gave what can only be described as a roar of triumphant delight. The noise was the same as greeted a decisive Cup Final goal at Wembley.

Clive Rowe is a great singer whom I can remember playing the part of Mr Snow in *Carousel*, another National musical. Richard Eyre has created the definitive modern production of *Gypsies and Dolls*. But it was the strength of *Gypsies and Dolls* itself that did it. What I realised on Tuesday night was that *Gypsies and Dolls* is a genuine classic. It stirs the deepest emotions of the audience, but it has done so for successive generations, not just for its own.

The great American musicals of the mid 20th century, like the great music of *Gypsies and Dolls*, thought it was his love songs that mattered. He said he was in the romance business and asked his friends, "Which song made you cry?" The relationship between Nathan Detroit and Miss Adelaide brings a pre-1960s innocence to the love affair of a professional gambler and a nightclub chanteuse. Their

from later 1920s to the early 1960s.

There seem to be three essential elements, at least in those musicals which have become classics. They are largely Jewish in composition, their music is based on black rhythms, and they deal with major American myths. *My Fair Lady*, the only Anglo-American musical in this classic canon, is based on the English myth of class. Edna Ferber who wrote the original novel from which *Showboat* was created for the stage, was herself Jewish. *Showboat* is the great original from which all the later classical musicals derive. The best of the non-Jewish songwriters was Cole Porter, and he was strongly influenced by his Jewish contemporaries.

With such strong Jewish and black influences, these musicals are the cultural creation of two suffering peoples. Suffering is the common characteristic of all great art: one sees it in Shakespeare, as one does in Rembrandt or in Goya. Art without a sense of pain only speaks of a superficial part of human experience. Yet these are also happy and confident musicals. Almost all of them celebrate the triumph of human courage and romantic love over painful difficulties.

In the pre-1960s, it was possible to write about romantic love directly, without the cynicism of modern years. Frank Loesser, who wrote the songs and music of *Gypsies and Dolls*, thought it was his love songs that mattered. He said he was in the romance business and asked his friends, "Which song made you cry?" The relationship between Nathan Detroit and Miss Adelaide brings a pre-1960s innocence to the love affair of a professional gambler and a nightclub chanteuse. Their

songs bring a catch to the throat.

The myths are all very powerful, and most of them relate to American history. *Showboat* has the myths of the Mississippi, of the theatre people, of the old America. *Porgy and Bess* has the black experience. *Okla!oma!* has the development of the West and the conflict for land between farmers and cowboys. *Gypsies and Dolls* has the urban myth of the gangsters and the people who have to get by in the big city environment. All are stories of resilience and survival. Whether they were working on the Mississippi, developing the West or enduring the hazards of New York, these people were historic players. The American canon of the period from 1880 to 1950 had to be seen out of rock, not moulded out of plastic. Hollywood used the same American myths, which were personified in some of the greatest stars, in the Western as in the urban street skills of Bogart, in the Irish courage of Cagney, in the innocence of Judy Garland's *Wizard of Oz*. The golden age of Hollywood coincided with the golden age of the American musical theatre, and perhaps with the golden age of America.

Richard Eyre's production of *Gypsies and Dolls*, and the whoop of triumph which rewarded Nicely-Nicely Johnson on Tuesday night, have convinced me that we have got these musicals wrong. We have understated their importance. They are not merely popular works, likely to live for a generation and then be forgotten. They derive from deep ethnic traditions as well as from authors and composers who know their business. They deal with the fundamental emotions of human life: in their honesty and not in their decadent or pretty form. They speak of the individual courage that built America, and of the millions of plagues, not merely of the exceptional leaders. They speak of a wariness, together, more heroic world than the one into which we have lived. I came out of *Gypsies and Dolls* feeling like a million dollars; so did a throng of teenagers 50 years younger than myself. I think the Queen should go and see it to cheer herself up about the future of the country. But she should choose a night when the theatre is full of teenagers about to go back to school.

A Labour government will improve educational standards and revamp our tottering training system, to provide business with the skills so desperately needed. Gordon Brown's "University for Industry" initiative has been met by widespread interest. Reskilling and career change is the only way to survive in a flexible, fast-changing labour market.

Job security agreements must not, of course, be an excuse to ignore or shut out the millions of jobless people who simply do not recognise Tory claims that unemployment is falling. A shocking three million children now live in jobless households - and the figure has risen by 400,000 in the past four years. More than 90 per cent of new jobs are part-time, and there has been a disturbing collapse in jobs for middle-aged men. Youth and long-term unemployment remain worryingly high.

These problems must be addressed by new policies, such as Labour's commitment to move 250,000 youngsters off welfare and into work, funded by a levy on the profits of the privatised utilities. But greater job security will itself create more favourable circumstances for increased economic demand and therefore jobs.

Companies like Blue Circle obviously make decisions on commercial grounds, and agreements like theirs confound all the favourite nostrums of the New Right who dominate today's Tory party. Far from blocking change and flexibility, job security opens the door to both. Far from obstructing competitiveness, the principle of partnership at work underpins it. Far from being a hindrance, trade union participation can be a help. These truths are increasingly recognised by progressive, world-beating companies who respond to Labour's stakeholding ideas.

The author is a Labour Shadow Employment Minister.

P.H.S

Secure jobs do matter

Peter Hain on Labour's new role for unions

It's just "a state of mind" according to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade: a "myth" according to Eric Forth, the Employment Minister. Yet job insecurity now hangs menacingly over almost every employee. According to a study by International Survey Research, just 43 per cent of people in employment feel secure today, compared with 76 per cent when John Major became Prime Minister in 1990.

The Government's own Labour Force survey shows that more than half those lucky enough to get a job are back on the dole again in less than a year. A recent survey by my office showed the difficulties faced by non-permanent staff in getting mortgages. Despite genuine attempts by building societies and other lending institutions to adapt to job insecurity, they were forced to discriminate to protect their assets, as the Nationwide frankly told me. No wonder, despite an economic upturn, that there is no "feel-good" factor.

So what is to be done? This week one of Britain's top companies, Blue Circle Cement, announced a five-year job security agreement with two top trade unions, the GMB and TGWU. This allows employees and their families to plan for the future in return for flexibility and efficiency measures allowing the company to be competitive. Staff were happy to trade modest pay rises for security of employment.

A similar three-year deal has been struck between the GMB and the Scottish company United Distillers. This matches job security with a commitment to flexibility and retraining, pegging pay increases just above inflation. Its success produced an extension to four years - and has brought interest from other companies.

The right-wing assertion that job insecurity is simply a product of global market forces of which we are all prisoners hugely understates the capacity to resist the mania for hire-and-fire. Blue Circle operates in the construction market, where competition is at its rawest. United Distillers is also in a highly competitive market.

The Right's reliance on free-market dogma and deregulation has failed. It hasn't delivered the jobs, the skills, the infrastructure, the investment or the growth necessary to make Britain a high-quality economy. An alternative is overdue. Partnership between employers and unions is the only effective passport to a highly skilled economy. Government should support this social partnership, though not on the old bureaucratic, corporatist model.

Deals over beer and sandwiches by a government lurching from one crisis to another is a familiar caricature, but Labour doesn't want to turn the clock back: the solutions of the 1960s don't fit the 1990s. Centralised meddling is not the answer. But businesses do want the kind of support and partnership that foreign competitors receive from their governments and which is singularly absent from ours. The governments of the Far East, "tigers", for example, give substantially more skills, research and investment support to industry.

A Labour government will promote best practice. It is not for governments to pre-empt or second-guess local bargaining. Terms must be agreed in the workplace. But we can encourage companies to look at agreements like those of Blue Circle and Distillers.

A Labour government will improve educational standards and revamp our tottering training system, to provide business with the skills so desperately needed. Gordon Brown's "University for Industry" initiative has been met by widespread interest. Reskilling and career change is the only way to survive in a flexible, fast-changing labour market.

Job security agreements must not, of course, be an excuse to ignore or shut out the millions of jobless people who simply do not recognise Tory claims that unemployment is falling. A shocking three million children now live in jobless households - and the figure has risen by 400,000 in the past four years. More than 90 per cent of new jobs are part-time, and there has been a disturbing collapse in jobs for middle-aged men. Youth and long-term unemployment remain worryingly high.

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The author is a Labour Shadow Employment Minister.

Court out

WHILE Michael Atherton endures the humiliation in New Zealand of being caught out by a female cricketer, the man who could save the sorry England Test side is incarcerated at the Old Bailey. Mike Gatting, coach of the England A team, is unable to help because he is doing jury service.

Given Atherton and his shower of a team's performance in Zimbabwe and New Zealand, Gatting's arrival at the Old Bailey on Monday caused a commotion. He told admirers that he had managed previously to defer jury service three times because of his commitment to cricket, but that this time he was forced to appear and serve his country in another manner. Fellow jury members, aware that he was the last captain of England to win the Ashes (ten years ago), have been suggesting that the Old Bailey should have given him a fourth let-out. Citing his recent success in Australia with England A, late last year, where the team lost only one of their ten matches, they argue that he is the one man with the grit needed to clear up the mess Atherton has made at the crease.

New blue

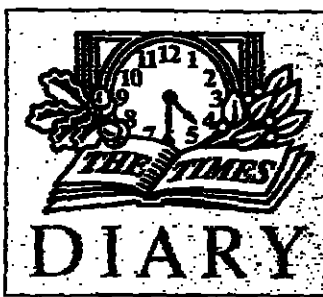
SCOTLAND'S Tories received a tremendous lift on Tuesday eve-

ning when Jacob Rees-Mogg, 27, son of Lord Rees-Mogg, former Editor of this newspaper and now PHS's colleague on this page, was selected to contend the Fife Central constituency, which at present has a strong Labour majority.

Rees-Mogg, who is coat-hanger thin and has a cracker-dry wit, currently works in the City.



Gatting: not batting



So, any chance of seeing his pins in a kiln? "No. Fife is not a Highland seat. Anyway, I think it would be patently bogus if I turned up in a kiln and quoting Burns."

Hushed up

AT dinner the other night, a journalist found himself sitting next to one of Peter Mandelson's Labour campaign team. Halfway through, the journalist revealed his profession. "I am afraid I can no longer talk to you," said Mandelson's boy. "We have all had to sign an agreement not to talk to the press until after the election. It's a sackable offence I'm afraid."

● Sick as a parrot, sums up Cardinal Basil Hume's reaction to the resignation of Kevin Keegan as manager of Newcastle United, where he is a season ticket holder. "He has served Newcastle with distinction," he says gloomily from Archbishop's House in Westmin-

ster. "To show gratitude for what he has achieved, fans should continue to support the club as always and the team must go on to win the Premiership and the Cup."

Jawohl

TUESDAY night's debate on the monarchy brought to mind the evening a couple of years ago when the BBC hosted a smaller but similar exercise chaired by Jeremy Paxman. In the studio next door was a Bruce Forsyth game show, which had a particular following in Germany. Coachloads of Germans were lined up for a glimpse of their hero outside one studio; monarchists and republicans outside the other. But the BBC herded the groups into the wrong studios.



Paxman, who knew nothing of the mix-up, sounded out his audience with a current affairs question. "Hands up who can name the President of Germany," he said.

● With the Prime Minister in India, BBC journalists have remembered an embarrassing incident from his last visit, in January 1993. He visited a slum development scheme in the city of Indor, and came across a statue of the prominent constitutional lawyer and champion of the lower castes, Dr B.R. Ambedkar. The BBC journalist John Sargeant mistook the statue as a post-colonial tribute to Major, and reported on television in his best Raj tones that although it didn't really look like the PM it was nevertheless a good effort by the locals.

Cash up front

TROPHY-HUNTERS have emerged from the bilsheds after my story of how J & J Cash, nametape manufacturers, have been awarded a Royal Warrant by the Prince of Wales because of his children's boarding-school requirements. In recent terms, boys have been sneaking into the changing rooms when Prince William is playing games to snip out his nametape for their collections. It reads, simply, "Prince William" followed by his laundry number and fetches a good few Hohenzollern or Goldsmith nametapes on the black mar-



William: playing tag

ket. The young prince is particularly at risk when playing away matches - rugby, water polo and the like.

● One thousand new names make it into the 1997 Who's Who, including the comedians Ruby Wax and Paul Merion, actor Ralph Fiennes, Ken Hom, cook, and William Kok, the Prime Minister of The Netherlands. Also making his debut is the raunchy Sir Thomas Shakespeare, Research Fellow at Leeds University who lists "flirting" as his recreation.



VIRTUAL DEMOCRACY

Politicians cannot ignore the public desire to participate

The content and conduct of Carlton Television's debate on the monarchy was not impressive. But the number of those who wanted to register their position — and the passionate anger of those who failed to do so — certainly was. This poll was not a unique or isolated incident. From the regular public support for referendums to the phone-in phenomenon throughout the broadcast media, there is manifest evidence of people's desire to make their voices heard where decisions are made.

Such desire reflects disenchantment with the limited, irregular, and predominantly passive role offered them under classic representative government. The model of democracy with which Britons are familiar emerged in its modern form approximately a century ago. It allowed for existing elites and for institutions such as the monarchy and Parliament to continue in a changed but largely consistent fashion, despite the evolution to universal suffrage.

The combination of powerful social trends with new technological means has placed the status quo under strain. Higher living standards, rising levels of education and a sharp decline in deference form one part of this process. Wider access to information and the power to process data at great speed form the other. With them may be coming a reluctance to delegate choice and control to mediating bodies, be they the organised church, traditional family, political parties, or professional parliamentarians.

Much of this is true for all advanced democracies. But that is no reason for complacency in Britain. Under our present arrangements, very few political actions beyond the ten-second task of casting ballots at a general election have much importance. Over the past two decades real authority has both been grasped from local councils by Parliament and given away by the same office-holders to a remote European Union. In neither case was there much public consultation, still less popular permission.

Compounding this, the inner workings of Whitehall still harbour an excessive propensity for secrecy. Parliament is suppressed as an independent spirit by the doctrine of

mandate, a ludicrous fiction that a vote cast for a party represents the total endorsement of all proposals placed in an election manifesto. It is not surprising that citizens eager to have their say find inadequate opportunities to use their voice.

The drive to widen the franchise has been the story of democracy. From Ancient Greece to the Great Reform Act through votes for women it has invariably been viewed with horror by those obliged to share formerly oligarchical power. Sometimes the oligarchs have been well justified in their fears. But the pressure for popular voices to be heard is not easily wished away. Some countries, such as France, allow street riots to be the system's safety valve. In others, such as the US, it is increasingly talk-radio and the push-button poll.

There are many proper concerns about the current trend that go beyond oligarchic self-interest. The first is that democracy must be more than the identification of, and obedience to, the majorities on any particular subject. The second is that the decline of an automatic deference should not slide into resistance to any form of respect. The third is that entitlement to a layman's opinion does not mean that other views, based upon the experience and expertise of a few, should be cavalierly rejected. Finally, and critically, the entry fee for a more direct form of democracy is a willingness to undertake the homework. The legitimate criticism of the Carlton extravaganza is that its format bypassed all four of these concerns.

Politicians would be poorly advised, however, to permit the flaws of a particular programme to obscure the wider picture. One hundred years ago Britain managed the transition to modern democracy with astonishing success. Its system comfortably withstood the forces of extremism that swept across most of Europe in the inter-war period. Today the Government is trying to make a virtue of its reluctance to consider constitutional innovation. If the worst excesses of push-button plebiscites are to be avoided then reform is precisely what will be needed. The monarchy is not the only institution that needs to adapt to the times.

SERVICE CHANGES

When below stairs is a basement flat and car

Until the Second World War, it was a common practice for young men and women from poor homes to go into domestic service. The work was hard but there were promotion prospects and the surroundings were often congenial. Yet the system depended upon a sharp class divide that, in more egalitarian postwar years, was harder to stomach. Domestic service soon became a term demeaning to the employees and guilt-inducing to employers. Now, we are told, it is coming back but in a different way.

According to a paper at the Geographers' Conference yesterday, paid domestic labour is a big growth industry. But the modern domestic help — the word "servant" will surely never return to general use — is in most cases a different phenomenon altogether. In the past, upper-class employers paid working-class people to do jobs that they could do themselves but chose not to. So a nanny might be employed to look after the children while the mother was in the house, bringing them down, freshly scrubbed, for a token half-hour before bedtime. Butlers and cooks would take care of the tasks that most people, even in the upper classes, now do for themselves.

There are still rich people who hire domestic help out of desire for leisure or prestige. Many of them are foreigners: yesterday's survey was done in Hampstead, which has a large and wealthy expatriate community. But the main boost to the booming domestic service industry is the two-earner household. Working mothers do not hire nannies as a badge of privilege; childcare is a necessity. Gone are the days

when the nanny worked six-and-a-half long days out of seven. In most of today's nanny-employing households, the nanny works chiefly in the parents' absence.

This arrangement suits both parties. Nannygiving has become a career for many young women, with professional qualifications and salaries rising in line with experience. The job is reasonably well paid, with free food, accommodation and, sometimes, car — usually in a comfortable house. Employees often come from the same background as the employers. Pride is salvaged all round. For young foreigners or Britons who want to live away from home, jobs such as nannygiving provide the chance of living in greater comfort than they could otherwise afford. Domestic service is therefore a boon to labour mobility and an excellent way of reducing unemployment.

As the manufacturing sector declines, the service industry is the best hope for job creation. And the attraction of domestic service is that it is informal, flexible and no longer demeaning. Doing someone's "dirty work" because they are too grand to do it themselves is one thing; doing it because they have no time to do it is another. Jobs such as cleaning are also flexible enough to be fitted in around other commitments.

The latest Family Expenditure Survey showed that £3.89 billion is spent on help in the home. The true figure may well be higher, since much goes untaxed. But the guilt and envy that used to attach to domestic service should be swept away. Helping other people to order their lives is as valuable an occupation as any.

POLAND'S BECKET

Father Popieluszko is set to face the Devil's Advocate

No murder so shocked a nation or had such devastating political impact in Eastern Europe as the beating, strangulation and drowning of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the champion of Solidarity who kept up the spirit of resistance during Poland's dark days of martial law. The turbulent young priest was an inspirational figure, who gave his heart and eventually also his life to Polish freedom. Holding packed Masses that rallied support for the banned trade union, he was Poland's liberation hero. In 1984 the regime's security thugs decided to rid the country of him. Like the murder in an English cathedral 800 years earlier, the crime brought low not only its perpetrators, but the cause in whose name they acted. Popieluszko immediately became a popular saint; now, like Becket, his memory may be officially sanctified.

The Pope is to make his sixth visit to his native land this summer. Prall, yet still passionate about the country of his birth, he is sure to mention the case of Father Popieluszko during his pilgrimage. For there is every indication that this Polish pope is determined to do one final service for his country: to set in train the canonisation of its most celebrated modern-day martyr.

The part played by the Roman Catholic Church under Communism is only now emerging from scholarly papers and mem-

oirs. It is already clear, however, that the murder of the young priest was the single act that brought into the open the failings and contradictions of a system that could only maintain itself in power by force. Until then, those who foresaw no end to Communist power — including Archbishop Glemp, the Primate of Poland — believed that martial law was the lesser of two evils, the only way that Poland could ward off Soviet intervention. But Father Popieluszko was uncompromising.

His murder shamed the Communist authorities into arresting and indicting his killers. It was their trial which administered the coup de grace to the system: for the first time, a Communist government exposed the brutality on which it relied to remain in power. The system crumbled in Poland, emboldening all anti-Communist forces.

Like all saints, however, Father Popieluszko was a complex character. His stance raised the old moral dilemmas of obedience and revolt, compromise and stubbornness, pragmatism and political engagement. Did he not, like Eliot's Becket, succumb to the final temptation — courting martyrdom for his own vanity, and doing "the right deed for the wrong reason"? Those are the questions that will be put by the Devil's Advocate during any candidacy for sainthood. Poles have no doubt of the answer.

Sovereignty as a national asset

From Mr John Redwood, MP for Wokingham (Conservative)

Sir, David Selbourne, writing from Italy (letter, January 4), asks what is the difference between selling public assets to the public and giving away the powers of self-government to unelected European institutions? I would have thought a moment's reflection would have shown the big differences.

If an asset like a building is no longer needed for public administration it makes sense to sell it to a private interest which can use it. Doing so will enable it to be maintained and cared for, rather than languishing empty at the public expense.

Taking the State out of the business of making cars or running a transport undertaking was sensible: it increased employment and opportunity for British employees. Parliament continues to hold the power to tax or legislate as it wishes to influence or direct those and other businesses. It is returning the family silver to the family, to use it better than the State used it.

In contrast, giving away the rights of the British people and their Parliament to make laws as they see fit is like sending the family silver away to Brussels, for it to be used only when and as they see fit. Indeed, the single currency scheme entails sending the country's gold to Frankfurt and the surrender of our right to use it as we wish.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN REDWOOD,
The Conservative 2000 Foundation,
2 Wilfred Street, SW1,
January 6.

From Mr Charles Goodson-Wickes, MP for Wimbledon (Conservative)

Sir, Mr Selbourne may need reminding that the taxpayer has every reason to welcome the replacement of the £50 million per week subsidy to nationalised industries with £5 million per week now paid to the Treasury in taxes. He might also question whether it is necessary for management to be "elected" to run successful businesses ranging from railways to telecommunications.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES GOODSON-WICKES,
House of Commons,
January 6.

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, The main difference between selling off our public and civic institutions and handing over our national sovereignty to Europe is surely that we have been given several opportunities to express our opinion on the former in general elections but none whatever on the latter.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST,
Delfryn, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire,
January 4.

From Mr F. G. de L. Rutherford

Sir, I fear that Mr David Selbourne may have gone native during his residence in Italy. The notion that public and civic institutions succeed in cementing together a nation's fabric is a continental illusion and betrays a blind acceptance of the role of the State in the lives of its citizens.

In Britain we rarely make reference to the State, except to accuse it of being a nanny or "faceless". Not so across the Channel. There the authority of the State is indivisible. De Gaulle said so, and the attitude persists.

Yours faithfully,
F. G. de L. RUTHERFORD,
25 Vandon Place, SW6,
January 6.

'Times' and the Nazis

From Mr Simon Hutchinson

Sir, The well known passage quoted by Mr Robert Silver (letter, December 31) from Geoffrey Dawson's letter to H. G. Daniels of May 23, 1937 — not May 27 as stated by Mr Silver — is less damning than it appears to be when divorced from its background.

The essential background to that letter, and an earlier one of May 11, is that Hitler had intimidated Daniels, through intermediaries, that he would like to be interviewed by him: that Dawson had heard from Lord Lothian of his recent encouraging meeting with Hitler, who had emphasised his desire for friendship with England and deplored the criticisms of the British press; and that the British Government was optimistically preparing for a visit from the German Foreign Minister.

Dawson was of course aware of the extreme sensitivity of the dictators to the slightest criticism. It was emphatically not a time for "unfair comment". On the other hand *The Times* had published a full account of the bombing of Guernica by German airmen in the previous month which caused furious denials and angry criticism in the German press.

News is not comment and one searches in vain for any evidence that Dawson suppressed news.

Yours sincerely,
S. HUTCHINSON,
14d Calverley Park Gardens,
Tumbridge Wells, Kent,
January 7.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hedgerow rules are an 'untidy mess'

From Professor J. V. Beckett and Professor Michael Turner

Sir, The judgment in the Hull County Council relating to the Flamborough enclosure hedge (report, January 3) raises critical questions to which your leader of the same day pays too little respect.

Between 1740 and 1914 some 5,000 private enclosure Acts were passed, covering 6.8 million acres (21 per cent of the land area of England) — the great majority between 1760 and 1830. Thus the extent and timing of this aspect of the English landscape can be established with some accuracy; the enclosed landscape is not, as your leader suggests, a "timeless aspect of England's glory".

Enclosure Acts established boundaries, usually marked by fences, which might be dry stone walling in the Pennines or hawthorn hedges elsewhere. It was these subdivision fences which had to be maintained, not necessarily all of the hedges which were erected as fences.

Hedgerows erected by individual landowners in order to divide their own land (into fields, for example) were not protected by the legislation; so a clear distinction is needed between a legal boundary fence (which might be a hedgerow) and a hedgerow planted as a field boundary but not a legal boundary defining ownership.

Although enclosure Acts usually expected fences to be maintained forever, where they have subsequently been removed — for housing development, for example — they clearly cannot be maintained.

Obviously it is time for the Government to step in and tidy up what is at present a most untidy mess. But the idea that the Flamborough judgment can be used retrospectively to replant the English countryside with hedges that have been lost would appear to be fanciful.

Yours sincerely,
J. V. BECKETT,
(University of Nottingham),
MICHAEL TURNER,
(University of Hull),
c/o Department of History,
University Park, Nottingham,
January 3.

Snowboards and skis

From Mr John C. Clothier

Sir, I have been lucky enough to spend four weeks in the last year on the slopes in Val d'Isère and Tignes. Mown down three times by out-of-control skiers at the ripe old age of 50, my vote goes to the snowboarders, who left me to my own devices completely unscathed.

Furthermore the sheer beauty of a skilled snowboarder in action has left me in no doubt as to who deserves to inherit the slopes once they have been abandoned by skiers such as your correspondent Mr Peter Parr-Davies (letter, January 4).

The problem with crowded pistes is that they are full of people travelling in varied trajectories at vastly varying speeds, whatever happens to be strapped to their feet. Both skiers and boarders have the right to learn and enjoy the slopes under the same code of conduct.

It looks as if, on the basis of current trends, snowboarders will be more numerous than skiers within ten years. In other words the young have decided that boarding is more exciting than skiing. This does not make them, by definition, hooligans, however. Hooligans will be hooligans, surely.

Christian schooling

From Professor Sir Hermann Bondi, FRS

Sir, I am surprised that Father Leo Chamberlain, Headmaster of Ampleforth College, should show such apparent contempt for what he calls "moral relativism" (letter, January 2).

Not many centuries ago, Church leaders, including the Roman Catholics, thought it a moral duty to burn supposed witches and to hound alleged heretics to a miserable death. Assuming (as I charitably do) that these same churches now regard such actions as totally immoral, they are surely guilty of extreme moral relativism? Nor do the religious allegiances

Hands across the sea

From Mr William Bown

Sir, Octogenarians romantically inclined such as me, in common with other devotees of Robert Louis Stevenson, will have been reminded by Captain John Quayle's delightful letter (January 4) about his second officer's use of the ship's Aldis lamp, of the expression of filial duty by the otherwise villainous Captain Hoseason of *Kidnapped*.

His brig *Covenant* was never allowed to pass Dysart, on the east coast of Scotland, without a gun being fired in salute to his mother who lived there.

Yours sincerely,
WILLIAM BOWN,
Holly Lodge,
4 Long Street,
Cerne Abbas, Dorchester, Dorset,
January 4.

From Mr Alastair Ake

Sir, Captain Quayle's letter reminded me of similarly resourceful officers in the Royal Air Force.

From the Reverend Ernest N. Goodridge

Sir, I confess to being mystified by Colin Seymour's concern to save a hedge in Flamborough that plainly can keep no one out and nothing in. I suggest that a better response to the plight of our hedgerows would be to promote a revival of the ancient art of "plashing" or hedge-laying.

By this technique, upright growth is encouraged and then laid horizontally to fill the gaps, while new growth is encouraged at the "hinge" point close to the ground. Hedges can then be preserved over many generations, both as objects of beauty and usefulness.

If skilled hedgers are no longer around to give instruction, let small teams rediscover the art for themselves — they can't make a worse job of it than hedge-bashing machines operated from tractors.

Yours sincerely,
ERNEST GOODRIDGE,
13 Orchard Gardens, Fenstanton,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire,
January 3.

From Mr Richard Wakeford

Sir, I was delighted by the judgment vindicating Colin Seymour's defence of a (very) humble hedgerow and by your enthusiastic support for him.

However, even if fewer hedges are removed in the future as a result of this enforcement, I fear our hedgerows are still under threat of gradual destruction, not by intent, but by present methods of mechanical trimming.

Although horizontal tops and vertical sides look neat and tidy, lower shoots in the bottom of a hedge are denied light and moisture and there is little or no regeneration as a result.

I wonder why farmers do not trim their hedges to a simple "A" shape, involving only two passes with a trimmer instead of three, thus allowing and encouraging new growth from the bottom up.

Yours faithfully,
R. J. WAKEFORD,
4 Adland Court,
Church Street, Braintree, Devon,
January 5.

whatever their chosen mode of transport.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN C. CLOTHIER,
Little Court, West Bagborough,
Taunton, Somerset,
January 5.

From Mr Mark Dougherty

Sir, The difference in turning trajectory between skis and snowboards is wildly exaggerated and is certainly something which can be coped with, given a little common sense.

Snowboards are apparently deemed more dangerous mainly because of the demography of their riders, who tend to be young and reckless. Mr Parr-Davies would therefore do better to advise banning teenagers from ski resorts. Come to think of it, that would save us all from the horrific noise of parties going on all night.

I begin to think there could be something in the idea.

Yours faithfully,
MARK DOUGHERTY,
(Senior research fellow),
Dalarna University,
Centre for Research on
Transportation and Society,
S-78188, Borlange, Sweden,
January 4.

of the prison population support in any way the supposition that religion leads to morality.

What we need are firm ethical principles to which all can subscribe, without bringing in the logical contradictions between different faiths that divide people from each other, divisions that are reinforced by denominational schooling. Emphasis on shared secular values, as are provided by humanism, is needed. Only a morality not based on contentious religious belief can serve our age.

Yours sincerely,
HERMANN BONDI,
Churchill College,
Cambridge,
January 2.

In the 1960s I flew as captain of a Blackburn Beverley, one of the largest aircraft ever to serve in the RAF and the nearest to an airborne merchant ship.

We too carried Aldis lamps and some of our navigators would signal to their waiting wives as they approached the runway on return from overseas. Acknowledgement would be by torch or a waved tea towel.

On one occasion, on our approach to RAF Eastleigh in Kenya, my young navigator received an unwelcome acknowledgement to his signal. His rival for the affections of his girlfriend was seen to run out of her house, jump into his car and drive off at speed.

The Aldis lamp was replaced by binoculars on all future flights.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR AKED,
16 Mayfair,
74 West Cliff Road,
Bournemouth, Dorset,
January 5.

Business letters, page 27

Lower income tax and charity funds

From Mr Peter E. Robin

Sir, Since the beginning of the Conservative Government in 1979 there has been the declared intent and implementation of the policy, to reduce the basic rate of income tax. Indeed, the Labour Party has indicated an intention to reduce the rate. The policies reflect the trend towards the probable, inevitable switch to the taxation of goods, property, services and consumption.

The effect of this has been to erode significantly the income of many charities. For years much charitable funding has depended on matching some direct donations with support from the Exchequer by refunding the basic rate of income tax on those donations given under deed of covenant and by Gift Aid.

The reclaiming of tax from the original 33 per cent rate in 1979 has been reduced to that refunded at the current rate of 24 per cent (soon to be 23 per cent) and, if the intention to reduce the basic rate to 20 per cent or 15 per cent (as both parties have indicated) is implemented, the loss to charities will be approaching 50 per cent over the 1979 figure. This serious undermining of the ability of all charities to raise money has widespread, probably unintended, effects.

A simple remedy would be to allow the reclaim of higher rates of income tax from charitable covenants. Failure to provide some solution will continue to reduce the capacity of many charities to function, and reduce the otherwise powerful encouragement to charitable donation which still exists.

Yours sincerely,
P. E. ROBIN,
37 Knightlow Road,
Birmingham, West Midlands,
January 3.

Royal Parks cuts

From the Chairman of the Friends of the Royal Parks Forum

Sir, Dame Jennifer Jenkins (letter, December 28; see also letter, January 6) deplores the repeated budgetary cuts which London's Royal Parks have suffered. She calls for the appointment of an independent champion to proclaim the Royal Parks' case in the competition for National Heritage funds.

Cuts in the overall budget are not the only threat. The Department of National Heritage pursues a further policy of paring down running costs, forcing the Royal Parks Agency to reduce its management strength from 91 to 77 after the latest round of cuts.

Capable professionals, particularly park managers, with imagination and experience are having to take early retirement. Yet the quality of the Royal Parks depends crucially on the calibre of its managers: to run down the complement must be to run down the quality.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD DE STE CROIX,
Chairman,
Friends of the Royal Parks Forum,
9 Wellington Place, NW8,
January 6.

Ribbons or bows?

From Dr Andrew Bamji

Sir, Dr Helen Walters, GP (letter, January 3), would, I am sure, look both distinctive and artistic wearing a bow tie. Whether she might appear mad is a different matter.

The one stipulation must be that the bow tie has to be tied. In the main, made-up ones are distinctive and lazy, which would convey entirely the wrong impression.

As both a doctor and owner of 32 bows I speak with confidence on this matter.

Yours sincerely,
ANDREW BAMJI,
Greylands,
38 Goddington Lane,
Orrington, Kent,
January 3.

Royal debate

From Mr David Winnick, MP for Walsall North (Labour)

Sir, So the Prime Minister's Question Time session in the Commons twice a week is far too noisy, quarrelsome and confrontational, according to critics, though it usually deals with the most controversial political subjects of the day?

Should therefore MPs not follow the quiet, dignified and thoughtful responses of the audience, when confronted with views differing from their own, in last night's television debate on the monarchy (reports, January 8)?

Yours etc,
DAVID WINNICK,
House of Commons,
January 8.

From Mr Nicholas Paget-Brown

Sir, Having watched last night's debate, I have become worried about an unaccountable, spendthrift and remorseless body that I have had no opportunity to elect and which is both useless and tasteless. Where can I vote to abolish Carlton Television?

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS PAGET-BROWN,
Flat 4,
35 Hollywood Road, SW10,
January 8.

OBITUARIES

SIR JAMES COMYN

Sir James Comyn, former High Court judge, died in Navan, Co. Meath, on January 5 aged 75. He was born in Dublin on March 8, 1921.

James Comyn was reckoned by many to be the finest all-round advocate at the English Bar when he ascended the High Court bench at the beginning of 1978. He had mighty powers of assimilation and recall, a genius for simplification, a golden voice and a warm and winning way. He was as effective before a judge as before a jury.

His most spectacular victory was in 1964 in a libel action taken by the convicted robber Alfred Hinds against Detective Chief Superintendent Sparks, who had stated in his memoirs that Hinds was guilty of the crime of which he had been convicted. Comyn opened for the plaintiff with what the judge in the case described as the most shattering remark he had ever heard in court: "This man Hinds is innocent — and Sparks knows it." Hinds was released after the verdict and the law was subsequently changed to prevent a criminal conviction being again challenged through libel proceedings, but better procedures were established to review miscarriages of justice.

James Peter Comyn was the only child of a barrister from the old Munster circuit, a Clare man — also called James — who with his more able elder brother, Michael, espoused the Republican cause in Ireland in the years immediately preceding independence in 1921. Eamon de Valera hid in their house during the Irish Civil War and often turned to the Comyn brothers for legal advice in the following years as he fought to displace the Government that had defeated the Republicans in the Civil War.

But when de Valera came to power in 1932 there was a falling out when Michael Comyn was not made Attorney-General. Old James vented the family ire by taking his son away from Belvedere, the Dublin Jesuit day school, and sending him to school in England. Young James went to the Oratory in Birmingham, then at the zenith of its prestige and proud to number among its recent old boys the



Duke of Norfolk of the time. It was a long way from the Irish Republican world in which he had been reared.

Assisted by a trust bequeathed by his mother, who had died when he was only two, Comyn went on to read law at New College, Oxford, where he took a second. In 1940 he defeated Roy Jenkins to become president of the Oxford Union by a margin of four votes after several recounts.

Shortly afterwards he suffered the first in a series of nervous breakdowns that were to plague him throughout his adult life. After a period in hospital in Ireland he returned to London, where he worked for the Empire Service of the BBC.

In 1942 Comyn was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple and in 1944 started his pupillage with Edward Holroyd Pearce (later Lord Pearce), going on to join the Pearce Chambers in Fountain Court. He practised on the Western circuit as well as in London. He used to recall how rude some of the judges were in those days, mentioning particularly Rayner Goddard and commenting ruefully: "After Goddard, then Lord Chief Justice, rang me up and asked me to take on his granddaughter as a pupil, I said to myself that he would never be rude to me again. In fact, he was even ruder than before."

Comyn took silk in 1961. He quickly established himself in the first ranks of Queen's

Counsel. He was regularly retained by the Official Solicitor and was counsel in a series of cases that established mandatory blood testing in paternity and matrimonial cases. Times Newspapers was another regular client as he argued with success against the efforts of the Labour Attorney-General, Sam Silkin, to injunct a serialisation by *The Sunday Times* of the *Crossman Diaries*. In 1970 Comyn defended Will Owen, the North East Labour MP who was charged with passing secrets to agents of the Czech Government. He was acquitted. With justice it was said at the Bar that "Jimmy Comyn can take the stink out of everything."

As well as being successful

Comyn was immensely well liked by his colleagues. To high and low alike he was equally friendly and courteous. He served as chairman of the Bar Council in 1974. But it was not inevitable that he would be raised to the bench. He had not volunteered for the Armed Forces in the Second World War and, owing to his Irish passport, although even at that stage IRA violence had deprived Irishmen of much of their charm for English people. And, while his courage in facing recurring depressions was admired, his mental health raised questions about his fitness for judicial office.

Nevertheless he was in 1977 nominated by the Labour Lord Chancellor, Lord Elwyn-Jones (he had previously refused a similar invitation from Lord Hailsham) to become a High Court judge. At first he sat in the Family Division for a couple of years but did not relish the regular diet of child custody cases, which he found depressing and troubling. He was, therefore, relieved to be reassigned to the Queen's Bench Division. A man of kindly disposition he proved a lenient sentencer, so confirming a reputation he had first earned as Recorder of Andover when he was known as "Probation Comyn", coming from a more relaxed society it is possible that he did not fully share the Englishman's sense of outrage about crimes of dishonesty or offences against property.

For six months, stretching over 1980 and 1981, he had the distinction of presiding over what was then the longest libel trial in English history, when a member of the Moonies failed in an action against the *Daily Mail*. He missed, however, the companionship of the Bar and found life on the bench rather lonely. The old "Black Dog" returned on several occasions and he resigned on grounds of ill-health in 1988, well before completing the normal pensionable period of 15 years.

Comyn was a model son and nephew to the older generation of his own family and such was his devotion that — in Irish style — he postponed marriage until they had all died. Throughout his time at the Bar he had travelled regularly to Ireland to help to manage an aunt's farm in Co. Meath, which he eventually inherited and expanded.

He kept a pedigree herd of Aberdeen Angus cows and at one stage owned Victor, the three-times champion bull of Ireland at the Royal Dublin Society's spring show. He also exhibited at an agricultural show throughout the country during the long vacation, while all the Irish country people he knew accepted him as one of their own.

Any one of Her Majesty's judges was a possible target for IRA terrorists and in 1981 the Provisional IRA burnt his house in Tara to the ground, coincidentally destroying in the process many family memorabilia of the Republican movement in bygone days.

One bonus of retirement from the bench was that Comyn was able to spend more time in Ireland. He wrote much of his time in writing. He had already written a book about his father and uncle entitled *The Friends at Court*. It was a fine act of pietas but those who had known them discerned that it was a gilded picture with much left unsaid. He also wrote books on famous trials, as well as volumes of memoirs and anecdotes, which included some verses of his own. These books were entertaining and easy to read but perhaps not of lasting value. It was characteristic of him that his account of his own career was sanitised of anything that was unpleasant.

Comyn married in 1967 Anne Chaundler, a solicitor. He is survived by her and by an adopted son and daughter.

SANDOR VEGH

Sándor Vég, violinist, conductor and teacher, died yesterday aged 91. He was born on May 17, 1905.

SANDOR VEGH was the embodiment of musical spontaneity. "I hate the McDonald's school of music-making," he once said, "with everything the same." As a quartet leader, he would weave a malleable, sweet-and-sour thread of tone in and around his colleagues, coaxing, teasing and never settling for a comfortable "middle course". He habitually balanced visceral excitement with spiritual insight, scholarship with intuition, and a respect for the letter of the score with a striking and sometimes mischievous individualism.

Some critics interpreted Vég's freedom as lack of discipline. He occasionally acid playing as careless, even a little aggressive. But at his best — in inspired explorations of the mysteries of the great quartets of Beethoven and Bartók — his sincerity and his musical intelligence were both impressive and convincing.

He represented a vanishing generation for whom musicality came first, and virtuosity was merely a means to an end. Everything he touched glowed with life and even in old age he was a vital presence on the international concert circuit.

Sándor Vég was born in the Transylvanian town of Kolosvár (now Cluj in Romania). He showed early musical talent, and in 1927 played in a Strauss concert conducted by the composer.

At the Budapest Academy of Music he studied violin with Jenő Hubay and composition with Zoltán Kodály, and on leaving began to establish a reputation as a solo performer. On one occasion he shared a platform with the great Russian bass, Feodor Chaliapin, who told him that he must try to make his instrument sing like the human voice.

When the Hungarian Quartet was founded in Budapest in 1935, Vég was originally the first violinist, but after a few months he relinquished that position to Zoltán Székely and moved over to second violin.

In 1940 he left and founded the Vég Quartet, with himself as leader. The other members — Sándor Zöldy on second violin, Georges Janzer on viola, and the cellist Paul Szabó — were all distinguished soloists in their own

right. After a highly praised debut in Budapest, they embarked on a successful career, first in Hungary, where they were based until 1946, when they won the International Music Competition in Geneva and began to build an international reputation.

From its new base in Switzerland, the quartet toured widely in Europe and America during the following decades, and made many recordings, to both popular and critical acclaim. In 1978 Philip Nagel took over as second violin, and Bruno Giuranna on viola. The quartet disbanded in 1980, but not before its recording of Beethoven's Op 130 had been launched into space by Nasa aboard the space probe Voyager in 1978.

In the course of his career Vég performed with many distinguished musicians, striking up an especially fruitful collaboration in the 1950s with Pablo Casals, at whose Prades music festival he frequently played, and with whom he organised summer music courses in Zermatt. In 1962 he founded a chamber music festival at Cervo in Italy, where visiting artists included Yehudi Menuhin, Sviatoslav Richter, and Maurizio Pollini. In the 1980s he worked closely with the pianist András Schiff, almost half a century his junior.

The qualities of sincerity and concentration that characterised his playing as a violinist were carried over into his work as a conductor with

such groups as the Camerata of the Salzburg Mozarteum, the Camerata Academica and the Chamber Orchestra of Europe. He had his own chamber orchestra from 1968 to 1971.

Vég devoted much of his time to young musicians, insisting that he learnt as much from them as they from him. In 1972 he founded the International Musicians Seminar in a house in the dramatic setting of Prussia Cove in West Cornwall. Under his guidance the seminar gained a worldwide reputation, and its master classes, given by such artists as Ralph Kirschbaum, Thomas Riebel, Andras Schiff and Steven Isserlis, attracted promising young musicians from far and wide.

Vég guided the IMS from its inception until this year, when he was succeeded as artistic director by Isserlis. He frequently lamented the fact that today's young musicians are too often made to concentrate on technical perfection as an end in itself, to the detriment of character and individuality. In his own work, there was no doubt where the emphasis lay: "I'm very happy that I'm not perfect. I don't like people who are perfect. They are boring and their playing is boring."

Among many honours, Sándor Vég was a Chevalier of the Légion d'honneur, Arts et Littérature, and was appointed an honorary CBE in 1990.

He is survived by his wife, daughter and son.



PERSONAL COLUMN

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
CONSTITUTION on flights & hotels to Europe, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, etc. 0171-735 3300, 0171-735 3301, 0171-735 3302, 0171-735 3303, 0171-735 3304, 0171-735 3305, 0171-735 3306, 0171-735 3307, 0171-735 3308, 0171-735 3309, 0171-735 3310, 0171-735 3311, 0171-735 3312, 0171-735 3313, 0171-735 3314, 0171-735 3315, 0171-735 3316, 0171-735 3317, 0171-735 3318, 0171-735 3319, 0171-735 3320, 0171-735 3321, 0171-735 3322, 0171-735 3323, 0171-735 3324, 0171-735 3325, 0171-735 3326, 0171-735 3327, 0171-735 3328, 0171-735 3329, 0171-735 3330, 0171-735 3331, 0171-735 3332, 0171-735 3333, 0171-735 3334, 0171-735 3335, 0171-735 3336, 0171-735 3337, 0171-735 3338, 0171-735 3339, 0171-735 3340, 0171-735 3341, 0171-735 3342, 0171-735 3343, 0171-735 3344, 0171-735 3345, 0171-735 3346, 0171-735 3347, 0171-735 3348, 0171-735 3349, 0171-735 3350, 0171-735 3351, 0171-735 3352, 0171-735 3353, 0171-735 3354, 0171-735 3355, 0171-735 3356, 0171-735 3357, 0171-735 3358, 0171-735 3359, 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Big doesn't mean bad

The gulf between leading tour operators and the Consumers' Association widened still further last week with the publication of the *Holiday Which?* survey of customer satisfaction.

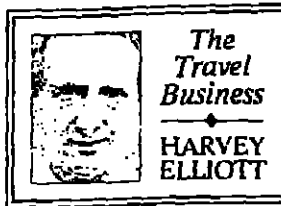
Yet again the big names did badly, while the smaller operators came out on top. Airtours was especially scathing of the findings, describing them as "misleading and inaccurate".

Airtours was backed by most of the other big operators, many of whose customers had responded negatively to the survey. The Association of Independent Tour Operators, however, was delighted with the findings. It said they reinforced its view that small was beautiful and that price alone could not be relied on to bring satisfaction.

Both have a point — probably the same one, if they realised it. Airtours, which came second to bottom in the satisfaction league table, sells about 3.8 million holidays a year for an average summer price of £259 and £189 in the winter. Only 764 Airtours clients, or 0.02 per cent, responded to the survey.

Top of the list for client satisfaction was Swiss Travel Service, a small specialist company offering 20,000 high-quality holidays a year for well over £500 a head.

Fewer than 50 of its clients, 0.24 per cent, filled in the questionnaire and all



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

said they would either "definitely" or "probably" recommend the company to a friend. Members of the Consumers' Association, who are readers of *Holiday Which?* and can afford a Swiss Travel Service holiday, are unlikely to be disappointed with the quality of their holiday or the service.

Conversely, a young family searching for a cheap deal must run the risk of finding some aspect of their holiday that does not live up to expectations.

The survey reveals only that many *Holiday Which?* readers — usually people aware of their rights — are happiest with small tour operators. It does not, as some commentators have suggested, indicate that big tour operators provide poor-quality holidays.

Everyone can learn something from such surveys — including the magazine. To suggest, as it did, that "travel giants are more interested in piling up the profits than providing the holiday of a lifetime" is unworthy. The big operators became big because they listen to what most people want — and then provide it.

Bargains of the week — from three nights in Florence to a taste of tropical India

HOLIDAYS

CITY breaks in Florence, with two going for the price of one, start next Thursday and continue every Thursday until the end of February with Holiday Place. Price: from £286 for three nights' hotel accommodation and return flights from Gatwick. Details: 0171-435 8071.

■ SKI in the French Pyrénées with Borderline this month from £299 for a week, including half-board hotel accommodation in the village of Barèges and return flights from Gatwick. Details: 00 335 6292 6895.

■ NORWEGIAN ski trips from £199 a person for a week's self-catering accommodation in Hemsedal are available from Advantage Travel Centres. Flights are from Stansted and Manchester on January 19 and 26. Details: 0990 881888.

■ TENERIFE for £283 a person for a fortnight's self-catering, including flight from Manchester on January 24, is available from Inspirations. Details: 01293 822244.

■ WALKING tours in the Peak District with an experienced guide are on offer from Countrywide Holidays. Weekend breaks start on January 24 and 31 for £77 a person, including two night's full board accommodation and high tea before leaving on the Sunday. Details: 0161-446 2226.

■ A TASTE of tropical India is on offer from Gurbia expeditions. Starting on January 25, February 22 and March 22, 15-day escorted tours go from Kerala to Madras by riverboat, train and bus. The price is £764 a person but flights, from £500, are extra. Details: 01373 326611.

■ FUI for a week from £799 a person, which includes bed and breakfast accommodation, is on offer from Qantas Holidays. Flights go from Heathrow every Thursday in February. Details: 0990 673464.

■ THREE WEEKS for the price of two in mobile homes on selected European sites from Flanders to the Costa Brava are available in May from French Country Camping. Extra discounts for bookings before January 31. Details: 01565 626266.



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BRUSSELS-BOUND business-class passengers on Sabena until January 15 will be given a bottle of champagne. London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, Leeds, Manchester and Bristol flights are covered. Details: 0181-780 1444.

■ THE LATEST British Airways world offer prices on flights from 22 regional airports, Birmingham-Paris costs £99, Manchester-Barcelona £144, and New York from Birmingham, Manchester or Glasgow is available for £199. Details: 0345 222111.

■ CONTINENTAL AIRLINES has fares of £199 to New York from London or Manchester, with Houston priced at £279. Book by January 17. Details: 01293 776464.

■ ALITALIA flights to Rome, Pisa, Venice, Turin or Bologna cost £119 return, provided you book before January 10 and depart by February 28. Details from Lupus Travel: 0171-306 3000.

■ THERE ARE more opportunities for flying between London City and Dublin after January 13 when the Irish airline CityJet boosts its flight schedule to six a day. Excursion fares start at £69. Details: 0345 445588.

HOTELS

DINERS at Fletcher's restaurant in the Selfridge Hotel off Oxford Street, London, receive a free bottle of house wine with their meal this month and next. The restaurant has two AA rosettes. Details: 0171-403 2080.

■ LONDON hotels in the Superbreak Mini-Holidays programme are offering 20 per cent off normal rates this month. The four-star Rathbone Hotel, in central London, for example, costs £46.40 a person a night. Details: 0161-238 5257.

■ THE Citadines Apparthotel in Montmartre, Paris, has a special weekend offer until February 16 of two nights for two people in a studio apartment for £99, including continental breakfast. Details: 00 331 4105 7979.

■ FREE accommodation for partners travelling with conference delegates at weekends until the end of March is on offer from Hilton National. In addition, the weekend 24-hour rate is being reduced. Details: 0645 314151.

■ A 10 PER CENT discount on the cost of hosting a late festive season party before the end of February is offered by the Sheraton Park Tower, in central London. Special room rates are also available until February 15. Details: 0171-235 8050.

■ THE Old Course Hotel, at St Andrews, has a special £99-a-night break until the end of March which includes entry to a prize draw to win one night's stay for two during the Millennium Open championship in July 2000. Details: 01334 474371.

■ GRAND Heritage Hotels has extended its Penhaligon's perfume deal until end of February. Guests staying for two nights receive perfumes and other gifts. Details: 0171-376 1777.

■ THE Concorde Hotel group has savings of up to 35 per cent on offer at 20 hotels throughout Europe until February 28, subject to availability. Details: 0800 181591.

■ INTER-CONTINENTAL Hotels has added Zurich and Barcelona to its Heart of the City weekend break programme valid until the end of March. Details: 0181-947 2277.

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BA to show in-flight film on drug smuggling

By HARVEY ELIOTT

A HARD-HITTING video is to be shown to passengers on British Airways long-haul flights as part of a Foreign Office drive to warn travellers against becoming the unwitting victims of foreign drug smugglers.

Bob Ayling, British Airways managing director, gave the go-ahead after meeting Dr Liam Fox, Foreign Office minister. Long-haul passengers will be shown *Flashback*, in which a British tourist is asked to bring back a cuddly toy, only to have customs officials discover it contains packages of illegal drugs, and the tourist is then arrested. BA says that the film has received a good response from passengers.

But Alan Flook, secretary-general of the Federation of Tour Operators, says that his members will not show the film on package holiday charter flights. "I understand completely what the Foreign Office is trying to do and I back them in any efforts to prevent someone getting involved in smuggling drugs, however unwittingly," he says. "But 99 per cent of our customers would never be involved in any such thing and it seems completely unsuitable to show them such films when they are looking forward to a relaxing holiday."

"People don't want to confront those kind of images and problems when they are excited by the prospect of a holiday and surrounded with smiling cabin staff. They prefer comedians and light entertainment on the in-flight television."

The Foreign Office has been battling for five years to persuade the travel industry to show films depicting problems faced by tourists. But until now their screening has been limited to television channels at least popular times. The Foreign Office cannot pay for the films to be screened and has to rely on them being used as free "fillers".

The decision by BA to show them will, the Foreign Office hopes, be the breakthrough that leads to other airlines, and eventually all airports, agreeing to let passengers see the warnings.

Kenyans may raise safari fees to save parks

By TONY DAWE

CHARGING tourists a higher premium to visit and stay in the most popular game parks in Kenya is being considered as part of a plan to prevent overcrowding and to encourage visitors to explore the country's lesser known parks and reserves.

David Western, director of the Kenya Wildlife Service, says that the present \$12 (about £7) differential in entry fees to the best-known and less-visited parks may have to be increased. And discounts for accommodation may have to be limited to lodges in more remote areas.

"Kenya is already a mass-market holiday destination and we have to turn that to positive advantage," he says. "Six parks account for 90 per cent of the tourism, yet we have 59 parks and reserves. We should consolidate mass tourism in the main areas but consider higher charges for entry and accommodation for places such as the Aberdare and Tsavo national parks which are relatively close to Nairobi and very popular."

"On the other hand, we could drop the fees for parks like Hell's Gate which is becoming increasingly popular with hikers as a 'walk-in' park but is bypassed by most visitors."

The restructured wildlife service, which was formerly a military organisation, has been encouraging the sort of developments in remote areas which are essential if tourists are to be attracted to them.

Small tourist lodges that fit into the landscape and contain beds for 12 to 15 visitors are being built of local materials and will be staffed by local people. The service is also helping to train tourist scouts in many areas and to develop tourism plans.

In the Samburu reserve in northern Kenya, the service has sent in commissioners to liaise with landowners and help them to form wildlife associations to allow animals to roam more widely. "Our major role," Dr Western says, "is to be brokers between local communities, landowners and the tourists who want to visit them, while at the same time conserving wildlife and the environment."

His service has been criticised, however, by some tour operators for being too restrictive on tourist activities in the game parks. "We have said 'no' to balloon safaris, for example, because they are too intrusive," he says. "We are not trying to stop these activities or the development of walking and camel safaris but believe they should take place outside the national parks."

The Serengeti Hotels group, which owns properties in Kenya, Tanzania and Zanzibar, is offering 12 different itineraries for the first time this year so that tourists can combine visits to game parks in the two mainland countries with time on the beach.

Ferry prices go overboard in Channel war

By STEVE KEENAN

FERRY BROCHURE prices are tumbling again as operators look to recover business lost to the Channel Tunnel and to bring in early bookings.

P&O and Brittany Ferries have both sharply reduced fares in the first 1997 cross-Channel brochures to appear, which reflect last year's savage price war.

The Le Shuttle service through the tunnel took nearly half the market in 1996. But the tunnel blaze has caused a delay in 1997 prices and forced P&O to publish its first brochure.

Holidaymakers who book ferries early will benefit further by paying under £100 for a peak season return — a discount of almost 70 per cent on brochure prices for the same departures last year.

Stena Line this week offered a flat-rate £98 return for any crossing on its routes via Dover-Calais and Newhaven-Dieppe. The offer undercut rival P&O by £1. Both

companies demand bookings and payment by February 28. The knockdown fares are a reaction to other bargains, such as a £79 ticket offered to Sea France customers who paid that price in 1996. They are also designed to encourage customers to book from brochures — unlike last year.

Peter Stratton, P&O's marketing director, says: "Very few people paid brochure prices in 1996. Discount fares meant brochures became irrelevant in the thick of the booking season."

"The aim now is to try to retain sensible pricing. We are also no longer the market leader and have had to adjust prices accordingly."

P&O has dropped peak season returns in its brochure from £326 to £268. Standard returns start at £118, close to the actual average paid by cross-Channel travellers last year. The company's biggest savings — up to a quarter — are on the Dover-Calais route,

which accounts for 80 per cent of all cross-Channel travel and where P&O has been hardest hit by Le Shuttle.

On western Channel routes, market leader Brittany Ferries has cut prices by 13 per cent. It has also expanded its package holiday operation in a bid to tie in holidaymakers to its ships.

But the moves by P&O do not reflect a concrete strategy for 1997. It is a holding measure pending the outcome of merger talks with Stena on operations out of Dover. The merger has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which will report back in March. The deal is expected to go through, with conditions ensuring fair competition for other ferry operators.

Should they merge, a new brochure will be published for the main summer period with new fares for the joint operation pitched against Le Shuttle and other rivals.

Holidays for four-legged friends



Have pet will travel: the guide has destinations where even a horse owner can find a welcome for her companion

By JENNY KNIGHT

DOGS top the list of pets which owners want to take when they go on holiday, but horse owners are also searching for vacations that welcome their animals.

The latest edition of *Pets Welcome!* 1997 — the holiday guide for pet lovers — shows a scarcity of pet-friendly holiday homes available for those who want to take their horses. Bryan and Jane Jackson, for example, of Exford, Somerset, welcome all pets to their holiday home with guest house in the heart of Exmoor, and also provide free stabling. She says: "Two girls brought their horses last summer. They brought their own feed, a vehicle and a trailer each and they moved on to a different place each night."

The *Pets Welcome!* guide also includes a selection of pubs that welcome animals, with short accounts of four-footed regulars. Gina, a Newfoundland dog, makes a daily solo visit to the Winged Horse in Basildon, Essex, for a pub lunch of biscuits and a beer, while Flippy, a mongrel, visits the Flying Bull near Petersfield, Hampshire, for biscuits and coffee and then pops over the road to The Sun for a packet of cheese biscuits.

A spokesman for *Pets Welcome!* explains: "Dogs are the most popular animal holiday companions, but one woman turned up with two ferrets on a lead, which she took for walks like dogs." Anne Cuthbertson, the editor, says: "This edition provides a wider selection of accommodation where pets and owners are welcome."

London is revealed as the capital of pet-hating hoteliers with only two entries. One is in Kingston upon Thames. The St Athan's Hotel in Tavistock Place, near Russell Square, offering free accommodation to pets, is the sole entry for central London. Elsewhere, hoteliers tend to greet pets more enthusiastically. One dog lover, quoted by the guide, wrote to a country hotel in Ireland to ask if his dog would be allowed to stay.

The owner replied: "I have been in the hotel business for 30 years. Never yet have I had to call in the police to eject a disorderly dog. Never has a dog set the bedclothes alight through smoking. I have never found a hotel towel in a dog's suitcase. Your dog is welcome. PS: If he can vouch for you, you can come too."

Top resort faces rooms shortage

By DAVID CHURCHILL

HOTEL ROOMS in the top-selling long-haul destination of Orlando, Florida, are in short supply for this summer. UK tour operators are finding it difficult to reserve enough hotel space in Florida to meet a boom in demand. And Thomson Holidays says that sales of packages to Orlando this summer are already 20 per cent ahead of last year.

The Florida Division of Tourism says the state as a whole is heading for a 15 per cent increase, as a record 1.4 million British holidaymakers are due to fly in.

Brian Booker, the managing director of the specialist operator Unijet America, says: "It is becoming harder and harder to find the budget Orlando hotels that the British market is used to. British operators cannot get the rooms at the same prices as they did 18 months ago."

Finding hotels on Disney property is also a problem. "For every Disney hotel we can book," Mr Booker says, "there are two or more unsatisfied clients."

The problem is that the strength of the American economy

has increased domestic demand for Orlando hotels. Convention business in the area has also risen. At the same time, higher demand from British tourists because of the strength of sterling has enabled Orlando hotels to push up prices.

Colin Brodie, Florida's director of tourism in the UK, says that Britons travelling to Orlando must be prepared to pay realistic prices for their hotel rooms. "There has been too much emphasis on the budget end of the business, which is now harder to meet," he says. The typical price for a self-catering apartment hotel in Orlando is now around \$100 (about £60) a night.

The popularity of Orlando as Britain's top long-haul holiday destination has been helped by heavy advertising this year by Walt Disney World. The theme park resort is now running its first national television campaign, which also offers a free video about the resort, as well as holiday offers from Unijet.

The airline says that about 300,000 holiday videos from Disney have so far been requested.

Affair with malt proves a tonic for Scotland

By STEVE KEENAN

SCOTLAND is expecting a tourism tonic this autumn when the French renew old acquaintances over a whisky or two.

The inaugural Scotch Whisky Festival in Edinburgh in October is expected to attract almost 10,000 overseas visitors, spending an estimated £5 million. The French will be the biggest contingent, reflecting their increasing love affair with malt. France is Scotland's fastest-growing whisky export market. Sales there last year reached £225 million, second only to the United States with £258 million.

Alan Twigg, the festival spokesman, said: "In terms of visitors, France will be our biggest market. Even the French Whisky Appreciation Society has been in touch."

The festival, backed by the Scottish Tourist Board, is also receiving calls from travel organisers in Spain, the Far East, North America and Brazil.

Declining franc boosts France

By TONY DAWE

TOUR operators specialising in France are hoping that the strengthening of the pound against the French franc will lead to an increase in the number of British holidaymakers crossing the Channel.

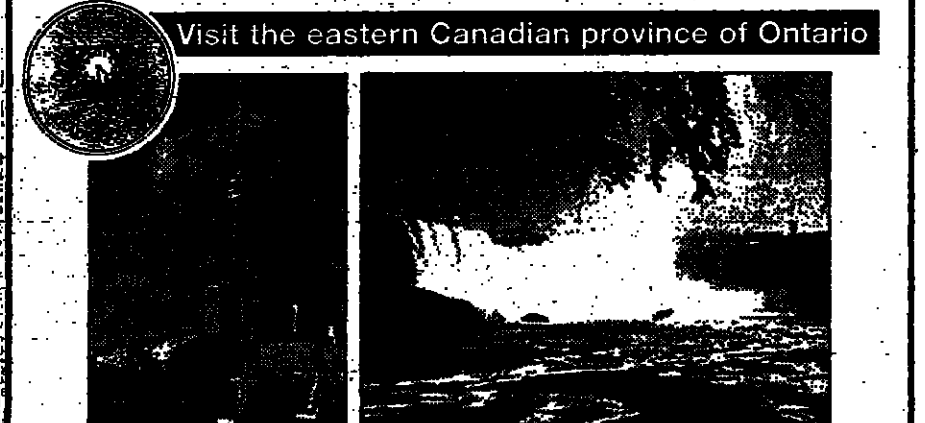
Sunsites, the camping and mobile home specialist, as part of a campaign to convince tourists that a French holiday is still value for money, has gone shopping in French and English supermarkets to discover that a basket of 15 items costs £9.96 more in Britain. Last year the difference was £5.18.

Robert Oakley, Sunsites' managing director, says: "The movement in the exchange

Prices in sterling	
Bananas (1kg)	0.25
Tomatoes (1kg)	0.55
Fromage blanc (12)	1.40
Milk (1ltr)	0.38
Orange juice (1ltr)	0.33
Apples (1kg)	0.62
Red wine	0.95
Beer (100cl bottle)	1.20
Butter (250g)	0.97
Camembert (250g)	0.78
Eggs (6)	0.77
Potatoes (5kg)	0.58
*UK price for 1-litre	

rate has obviously had a favourable impact on food costs. France as a holiday destination still offers very good value, particularly on a self-catering holiday, when you can take advantage of the

abundance of fresh produce available at markets. "The food shopping was carried out at the Carrefour in Calais and at Tesco in Britain when the exchange rate was Fr£47 to the pound."



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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY JANUARY 9 1997

Bank breaks pension rules

Lloyds fined £325,000 for mis-selling

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS BANK, the high street clearer that owns TSB, is the latest household name to be caught up in the £4 billion personal pensions mis-selling scandal, attracting a £325,000 fine from a City watchdog.

Imro, the regulator for fund managers, yesterday announced that Lloyds Bank had been found guilty of three serious rule breaches on pension transfer business. The infringements related to investors being wrongly advised to transfer money held on their behalf into occupational schemes into a personal pension plan.

Lloyds, which faced the fourth largest fine levied by Imro in its nine-year history, must also pay £65,000 towards the cost of the regulator's investigation, as well as making an estimated contribution of £25,000 towards the watchdog's disciplinary costs.

The bank said "we deeply regret the errors which have resulted in charges being brought against us by Imro for the pension transfer business we did between April 1988 and June 1993".

Imro said that over the five years' pension sales staff at Lloyds had failed to obtain all the relevant facts about the personal and financial circumstances of each investor. Nor did the bank provide certain customers with the vital information they needed to enable them to make "a balanced and informed decision on whether to carry out a pension transfer".

Lloyds said Imro had "not always advised relevant customers that a personal pension might not result in as high a pension as could be expected by remaining in their employer's pension scheme".

In the last full set of financial accounts issued by the Lloyds TSB group at the end of 1995 the bank stated that £165 million had been earmarked for compensation payments to thousands of investors who were mis-sold pensions by members of the enlarged financial services combine.

The compensation liabilities cover Lloyds Bank and its subsidiaries Abbey Life and Black Horse as well as the more recent acquisitions of

and insurers such as the Prudential, Pearl and Legal & General.

A total of 210 writs have been issued by the Bristol Mercantile Court at the request of Ringrose Wharton, the Bristol law firm acting on behalf of members of the Royal College of Nursing, GMB, Britain's largest general union, and Unison, the public sector workers union.

Philip Ryley, head of the pensions unit at Ringrose Wharton, said: "By issuing court proceedings rather than going through the SIB process we are focusing the attention of companies to review transactions as quickly as possible and also to come forward with compensation offers which are acceptable and, in some cases, with extra cash damages."

Lloyds is not the first high street bank to be singled out by City regulators in the pensions scandal. In July 1994, the life and pensions arm of Barclays Bank was publicly reprimanded by the SIB, which does not have the power to fine, for inadequate training and supervision of sales staff and a failure to keep proper customer records.

In November last year, the SIB acted to speed up the pensions mis-selling review, which has fallen way behind the original timetable and is expected to leave the industry with a £4 billion bill in costs and compensation. To date only £50 million or so of compensation has been offered.

Pennington

TSB and its life arm and Hill Samuel Life.

Lloyds, which sold a total of 107,000 personal pension plans between April 1988 and June 1993, said yesterday that the bank had identified 2,600 pension transfer investors as priority cases under the guidelines published by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City watchdog. Of these, some 1,500 are expected to be offered payments worth an average of £4,000 each and 164 people have already been offered compensation.

Both Lloyds and TSB are also the subject of High Court actions over personal pensions mis-selling as are NatWest



Camera angle. John Clare, chief executive of Dixons, trying out a camcorder at the Marble Arch store yesterday

Dixons fears tax will hit profits

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

DIXONS, the electricals retailing group, gave warning yesterday that a change in taxation rules on extended warranties could hit profits next year, and that some of the cost is likely to be passed on to customers in higher prices.

John Clare, chief executive, said it was now clear that an increase from April in insurance premium tax, from 2.5 per cent to 17.5 per cent, announced in the Budget, is

meant to apply to extended warranties. These account for around 8.5 per cent of group sales and some 10 per cent of pre-tax profits, so group profits in 1998 could be hit by up to £20 million.

The company is hoping to recover some of the tax and is looking at price rises on warranties and products. "In practice, we believe some of it could be recoverable," Mr Clare said. "We will do every-

thing in our power to ensure that any hit on profits is minimised or eliminated." He was speaking as he revealed first-half pre-tax profit up 53 per cent to £57.5 million. Like-for-like sales grew 8 per cent, and continued at the same rate in the Christmas period.

Analysts have left their forecasts for this year unchanged. But several cut their 1998 forecasts by around £15 million, to £210-£215 million,

because of the tax change. The company said trading was going well, but the high street was not experiencing an Eighties-style boom. It declined to comment on reports that it is planning to buy the Harry Moore chain of electrical retailers in Dublin. The interim dividend, due on March 3, is 2.5p (2.05p).

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Tempos, page 26

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4087.5	(+6.7)
Yield	5.81%	
FTSE All share	2009.64	(+5.29)
Nikkei	18880.38	(-215.61)
New York		
Dow Jones	6581.42	(-19.24)*
S&P Composite	753.42	(+0.19)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	96 1/8%	(96 1/8%)
Yield	6.78%	(6.79%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6 1/4%	(6 1/4%)
Life long gdr		
future (Mar)	108 1/2	(108 1/2)

STERLING

New York:		
\$	1.6885*	(1.6948)
London:		
£	1.6883	(1.6933)
DM	2.6529	(2.6493)
FF	8.9851	(8.9467)
SF	1.2651	(1.2635)
Yen	195.41	(195.46)
S Index	98.1	(98.1)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.5762*	(1.5643)
FF	5.3255*	(5.2835)
SF	1.2651*	(1.2635)
Yen	115.83*	(115.28)
S Index	98.9	(98.6)

Tokyo close Yen 115.33

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Mar)	£23.90	(£24.00)
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GOLD

London close	\$355.75	(\$359.35)
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* denotes midday trading price

Xtra value

The City expects the Halifax building society to pay out higher than expected bonuses to its members when it converts to a bank. More details of the Halifax's plans and the share distribution to its eight million members are due out tomorrow with the transfer document.

Smaller picture

Philips, the troubled electronics giant, is to loosen ties with Grundig, the television and stereo manufacturer, in an effort to cut costs.

Morgan in court over liquidation

By JON ASHWORTH

INVESTORS in the failed Global Opportunity Fund go to court in the Cayman Islands today, in their battle with Morgan Stanley, the US investment bank.

The investors, including wealthy Americans, are seeking the appointment of an independent liquidator to the fund, which was worth \$120 million before a run of redemptions led to its suspension. Morgan Stanley has proposed Christopher Morris of Deloitte & Touche. The investors favour Neil Cooper of Robson Rhodes. A ruling is expected tomorrow.

The investors are separately suing Morgan Stanley in Luxembourg for \$50 million, alleging negligence. Morgan Stanley Bank Luxembourg acted as administrator and custodian of the Global Opportunity Fund, and provided monthly valuations. The fund was domiciled in the Cayman Islands.

Islands. Morgan Stanley has sought to distance itself from the debacle, saying it relied on false valuations submitted by the fund manager, InterCapital Asset Management (ICAM). However, the investors contest that Morgan Stanley is more deeply implicated than it would wish to concede.

In papers submitted in court in Grand Cayman, they allege that Morgan Stanley in Luxembourg made no attempt to independently verify figures supplied by ICAM. They say they were encouraged to invest on the strength of Morgan Stanley's name.

Morgan Stanley yesterday defended the proposed appointment of Mr Morris, describing him as "one of the world's most highly regarded international liquidators". His assignments include Banco Ambrosiano and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

NY brokers arrested in exam scam

THE Manhattan district attorney has arrested 35 stock brokers over accusations of cheating on their qualifying exams (Richard Thomson writes from New York).

The brokers are alleged to have paid impostors to take their broking licence examinations. Without a licence a broker cannot legally give advice to the public or trade on behalf of clients.

One broker has pleaded guilty, but those arrested include two "ringers", who apparently took the tests for others, a middleman, who appears to have helped to arrange the scheme, and 50 brokers, who are said to have paid stand-ins.

The brokers, some of whom had failed the exam, apparently asked middlemen to arrange paid ringers to take the exam in their place. One ringer is said to have taken the test 28 times for 17 people, while another took it 22 times for 15 people.

Cable operators offer schools link

By ERIC REGULY

THE cable industry issued a challenge to British Telecom yesterday by offering to connect thousands of schools to the Internet and online services at fixed, cut-rate prices.

The offer was welcomed by Ofcom, the telecommunications regulator. It has been pushing the industry to provide Internet access to schools at prices that will not break their budgets. Cable companies and BT have been eager to respond because the country's 30,000 schools represent an enormous and largely untapped market for electronic educational services.

Tariffs set by the cable companies will guarantee unlimited access to Internet links for no more than £100 a year for schools with up to 250 pupils, rising to £500 a year for schools with more than 500 pupils. Stephen Davidson, chairman of the Cable Communications Association, said the prices will only allow the

industry to recoup its costs. "But the effort is worthwhile because we can showcase our capabilities to the audience of the future," he said.

Mary Marsh, head teacher of Holland Park School, London, and a member of Ofcom's educational task force, said: "A fixed price with unlimited use is exactly what is needed to open access to the Internet and online communications for all students and teachers."

Don Cruickshank, Director-General of Telecommunications, invited BT to compete with the cable companies to wire up schools. BT said it would work with Ofcom to devise ways of making electronic services "more attractive to the educational market". In 1995, BT told Labour that it would provide schools with free connections to its networks in exchange for greater regulatory freedom under a Labour government.

Whitbread buys more nurseries

WHITBREAD yesterday continued its journey away from its brewing roots with the £2 million purchase of five nursery schools from rival operator, Busy Bees (Alasdair Murray writes).

The deal makes Whitbread the largest operator of private nursery schools in Britain, with 24 sites. The pre-school care market is valued at around £1.35 billion this year.

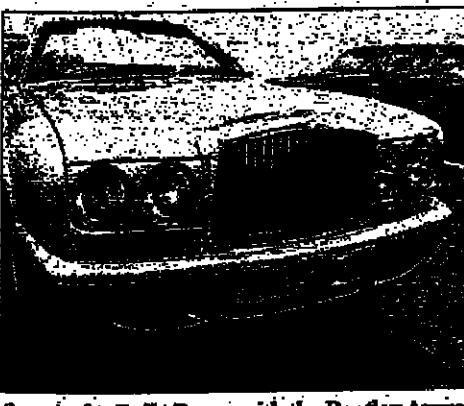
The group entered the market when it bought David Lloyd Leisure in 1995. The health and fitness business owns 19 nurseries under the Gatehouse brand, with 12 sites operating at its health and fitness clubs.

Steve Philpott, the managing director of David Lloyd Leisure, said that Whitbread aimed to open around three new sites a year.

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Rich pickings for Rolls-Royce and Christie's

By JON ASHWORTH



Success for Rolls-Royce with the Bentley Azure

BRITAIN'S super-rich went on a spending spree last year, fuelling the fortunes of fine-art auctioneers and luxury car makers.

Christie's International and Phillips raked in the spoils, while Rolls-Royce Motor Cars toasted a huge leap in UK sales.

Rolls-Royce sold 638 cars in Britain last year, eclipsing sales elsewhere in the world. UK sales were up 29 per cent on 1995, driven by demand for models such as the Rolls-Royce Silver Dawn and the uprated Bentley

Brooklands. The successes of the Bentley Continental T and the Bentley Azure have done much to raise the profile of the marque.

Worldwide sales rose 12 per cent to 1,744, up 188 on the previous year. Prices range from £106,866 for the Bentley Brooklands to £220,312 for the Bentley Continental. America is the second biggest market.

Britain provided equally rich pickings for Christie's, which reported worldwide auction sales up 9 per cent to £1.016 billion in

1996. The UK followed the Asia-Pacific as the second biggest area of growth.

A sale of Old Master pictures and drawings in London realised £20.4 million — the largest total for an Old Master sale at Christie's in five years. Raphael's *Study for the Head and Hand of an Apostle* sold for a record £5.3 million.

It is only the third time that Christie's has achieved sales of more than £1 billion. It did so in 1989 and 1990, only to see figures

slide to £583 million in 1991. They have recovered steadily since. Lord Hindlip, chairman of Christie's, said that growth in 1996 was broadly based, with increases in almost all categories of works of art.

There was similar cheer for Phillips, which saw worldwide auction sales rise 16 per cent to £113.5 million. Modern British and Irish Pictures contributed to a marked upturn in London.

In Geneva, the historic Excelsior I diamond fetched £1.75 million.

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Halifax payout may be £1,400

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

THE Halifax building society's planned Stock Exchange flotation and conversion to a bank could result in each of the UK's largest mortgage lender receiving an average payout of £1,400 — well above the original estimate of £1,000.

The society will tomorrow publish its transfer document, giving details of its plans and the likely share distribution to the 8 million qualifying members, of which 2.5 million are borrowers. A further 3 million customers do not qualify to vote on the conversion.

Analysts upgraded their payout estimates after members of the Woolwich building society learnt this week that they were likely to receive payouts of at least £844 and up to £5,437 each when the society converts in July. That would make an average payout of £1,200, 25 per cent greater than was predicted.

Analysts have also increased their estimates for the likely size of the Halifax float to around £11 billion, from £10 billion.

This reflects the market's confidence in the most comparable stock, Abbey National, the first and only building society to become a bank to date. When Abbey floated in 1989 its shares were worth 130p and members were given an average 100 free shares each. When the National & Provincial building society became part of Abbey last year, savers and borrowers were given an average of 89 shares worth 567p each.

Yesterday, Abbey shares rose 5p to 758p, an increase of 191p per share, giving the average former N&P member who held on to their shares a paper profit of almost £170.

Of the 5.4 million shareholders created when Abbey converted to a bank in 1989, 2.5 million remain. Nearly 90 per cent of former N&P members have kept their shares.



David Sebire, chairman of Robert H Lowe, with the latest selection of football shirts. The company saw pre-tax profits rise to £2.4 million

NU with-profits payout fixed at record £870m

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

NORWICH UNION, the mutual insurer that is planning to float on the Stock Exchange this year, is to make its biggest payout on mature with-profits policies, with more than £870 million going to around 53,000 members.

However, although it has broadly maintained bonus rates these have fallen below those of its rival insurers, Friends Provident and Gener-

al Accident, which announced their rates on Monday.

NU, which is expected to give details at the end of March of its conversion to a quoted company, kept annual bonus rates on its unitised business level at 6.5 per cent for savings contracts and 7.5 per cent for pensions. This is lower than Friends Provident, with 6.75 per cent and 8.25 per cent respectively, and GA, with

7.25 per cent and 8.5 per cent. Additional rates were increased for money saved since 1990. Rates on conventional with-profits life policies remained steady, with 2.5 per cent annual and 4.5 per cent additional bonuses. In contrast, Friends Provident paid 3 per cent and 4.5 per cent, and GA, 3.25 per cent and 6.75 per cent respectively.

The total payout on a ten-

year endowment maturing on January 1 fell £500, to £9,765, but rose £644 on 25-year policies, to £93,179. NU also cut additional bonuses on conventional with-profits pension policies by 1 per cent, to 4.5 per cent, but held the annual bonus at 2.5 per cent.

Richard Harvey, group finance director, said that the payments were fair and would beat other insurers who have yet to declare. "Norwich Union has a very large amount of business — over £100 million is being paid out on 25-year policies — and is careful to make sure that the payout reflects the underlying investment performance. Some offices have had little business and can pay more."

General Accident said new business for 1996 had passed £1 billion for the first time and it had paid policyholders between 5 per cent and 10 per cent above underlying investment performance.

Euro 96 helps to lift sales

By FRASER NELSON

GERMANY's victory in the Euro 96 championship helped Robert H Lowe, the manufacturer of replica football kits, to almost double its sales in the year to October 31.

The company, which supplies replicas of Germany's football kit, turned in sales of £30.5 million (£15.8 million) for the year, after demand shot up across Europe.

David Sebire, the chairman, found Liverpool was the most popular kit, selling 700,000 strips. Newcastle United was second and Germany jumped to third. A first-time contribution from W Smith, its newly purchased packaging company, saw the division's sales leap from £4.23 million to £11.6 million. This took overall pre-tax profits to £2.4 million (£1.3 million).

After a low tax charge of 6 per cent, claimed from the company's heavy losses in the early Nineties, earnings were 2.3p per share (£1p). The total dividend was lifted to 0.3p (0.2p) with a final 0.2p.

British firms more optimistic than rivals

A DRAMATIC optimism gap is opening between British business and competitors in France and Germany who are "extremely gloomy" about 1997 as their economies are squeezed in an attempt to meet the criteria for membership of a single European currency. The latest European Business Survey from Grant Thornton International and Business Strategies found that British owner-managed businesses are confident about 1997. Two thirds of those surveyed expect turnover and output to rise, 57 per cent expect to increase profitability and 38 per cent to expand their workforce.

The picture in Europe is bleaker, particularly in Germany and France. In Germany, a quarter of respondents expect turnover and output to fall and 46 per cent expect lower profits. In France, 22 per cent expect lower turnover and output and 31 per cent lower profits. In Germany, 40 per cent of owner managers think prices will go down. The equivalent figure in France is 37 per cent.

Phone jobs to go

KINGSTON COMMUNICATIONS, the telephone company owned by Hull City Council, is to make 300 people redundant as a result of increased competition. It was announced yesterday. A spokesman said that discussions between the management and the unions are continuing over the severance details. The council also revealed that more than 500 other workers have accepted severance deals, either by voluntary redundancy or early retirement, to save £18 million on next year's budget to meet the Government's financial targets.

Film units to merge

MENTORN FILMS and Barraclough Carey Productions agreed to merge yesterday to form Mentorn Barraclough Carey, Britain's largest independent production company. The new company will not be quoted on the London Stock Exchange. George Carey, the expanded group's director of programmes, said the merger will help it to compete with BBC, Carlton, Granada and Pearson in the production of documentaries, children's programmes, entertainment, news and drama. "The golden age of the small independent producer is coming to an end," he said.

NTT ringing the world

NIPPON Telegraph and Telephone (NTT), the world's largest phone company, said that it plans to break out of its core Japanese market and offer international telecom services to European, Asian and American companies by the end of this year. A new NTT division, called NTT Europe, yesterday asked the Department of Trade and Industry for a licence to carry communications services. NTT also plans to register as a carrier in Germany and France and construct high-speed information lines linking Europe, America and Japan. It said that partnership, mergers and acquisitions will be considered.

Coca-Cola clearance

THE European Commission indicated yesterday that it would this month clear the £700 million sale of Cadbury Schweppes' 51 per cent stake in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages, the UK bottling company. Last summer, Cadbury struck a deal with Coca-Cola Enterprises, which owns the minority stake, to sell out of the company. But the sale ran into regulatory problems, with rivals concerned that the deal would increase Coca-Cola Company's hold on the European soft drinks market. Coca-Cola Company owns 42 per cent of Coca-Cola Enterprises. Final confirmation is expected on January 22.

Capital Corp warning

CAPITAL Corporation, the casinos operator, yesterday warned investors that full-year pre-tax profits would be between £8.5 million and £9 million, against market forecasts of up to £11 million and down from the £13.1 million reported last time. The company planned the absence of high-rollers and adverse gaming results last month. The costs of launching the Colony Club had also been absorbed, the company said. Capital has pledged to maintain the total dividend at 8.1p a share. The results are due on March 11, while Capital shares fell 5p to 155p yesterday.

Service bid withdrawn

SERVICE Corp International, the US funeral services company with extensive UK interests, has withdrawn its £2.9 billion takeover bid for The Loewen Group, its chief competitor. The sector is highly fragmented and now consolidating. SCI cited actions taken by Loewen since the hostile bid was launched in September, including a succession of acquisitions and the implementation of lucrative severance packages for its directors. In December, Loewen said it had signed or closed acquisitions totalling \$325 million since Service made its hostile bid.

Cookson in £27m deal

COOKSON, the industrial materials group, has completed the £27 million acquisition of GRP from Salm-Gobain. GRP, based in the state of New York, is a supplier to the glass industry. The acquisition will complement Vesuvius, an existing division at Cookson, but no job losses have so far been announced. Richard Oster, Cookson chief executive, said: "This acquisition will allow Vesuvius to continue to build on their presence in the substantial glass furnace market." The deal was initially mooted last October.

Sports fund gains momentum for rapid 66% growth

By JASON NISSE

MOMENTUM Premier Sports Partners, the only dedicated sports investment fund so far, yesterday showed why the sector is generating such keen interest: it has grown 66 per cent in the eight months since its launch.

The figures are welcome news for a new fund being announced today in association with Alan Hansen, the football pundit. However, the news also contained a warning about the excitement generated by football club investment.

Michael Goldman, the hedge fund manager and Chelsea fan who runs the Momentum fund, said that it had considered launching a specialist football fund but that the sector was far too narrow.

He cited a problem in the shares of some of the clubs traded on the Oxfex matched-bargain market, which include leading teams such as Liverpool, Arsenal and Everton. All have shown massive gains in the last year.

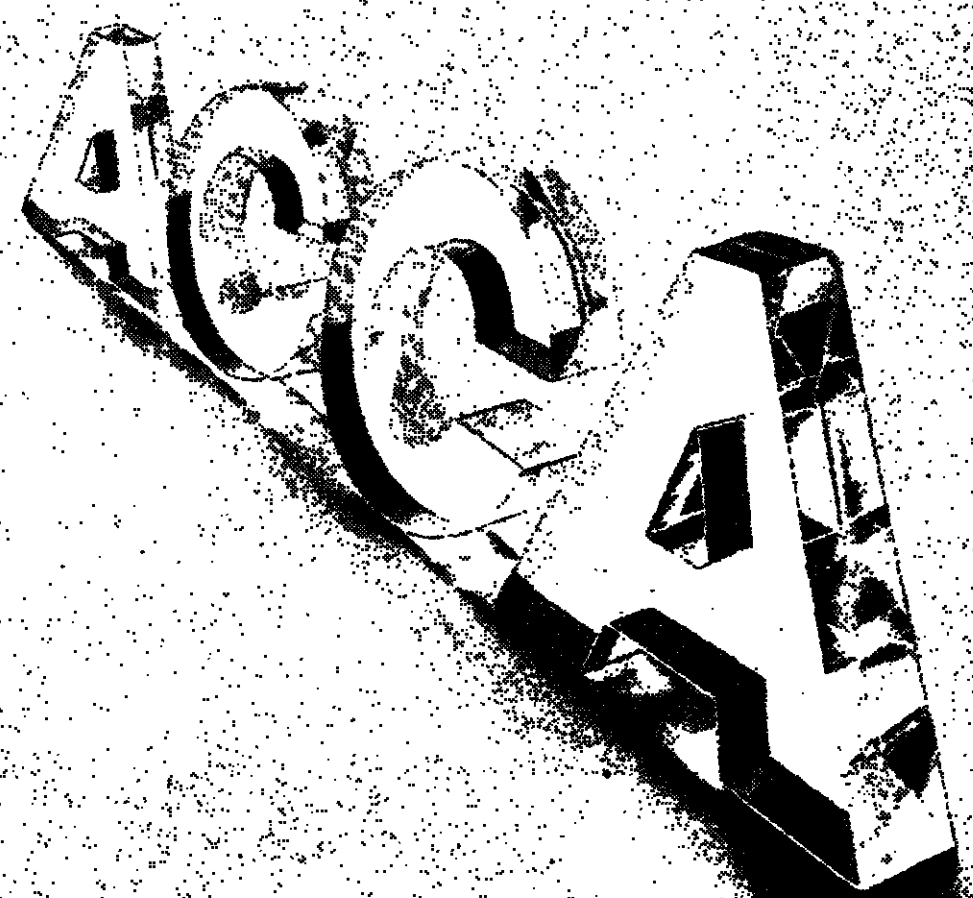
Momentum, based in London, Bermuda and Tel Aviv, has only raised \$5

Pennington, page 25

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Guys	Sells
Australia \$	2.24	2.08
Austria S	13.50	18.10
Belgium Fr	57.49	53.19
Canada \$	2.02	2.24
Cyprus Cyp	0.82	0.74
Denmark Kr	10.66	9.86
Finland Mk	8.51	7.86
France F	9.34	8.80
Germany Dm	2.80	2.59
Greece Dr	433	408
Hong Kong \$	13.13	12.73
Iceland	120	100
Ireland Pt	1.07	0.99
Israel Sh	5.77	5.12
Italy Lira	2711	2566
Japan Yen	209.50	193.50
Korea W	11.46	10.66
Netherlands Gld	3.120	2.890
New Zealand \$	2.53	2.31
Norway Kr	11.46	10.66
Portugal Esc	278.90	268.00
S Africa Rd	8.48	7.86
Spain Pta	220.00	217.00
Sweden Kr	12.44	11.64
Switzerland Fr	2.42	2.24
Turkey Lira	10000	101000
USA \$	1.791	1.681

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.



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□ Lloyds brought to account □ Can Matthew Clark sparkle again? □ Whitbread targets the youth market

A sorry state of affairs

□ THERE is a marvellous scene in the film *A Fish Called Wanda* where John Cleese is suspended upside down out of the window of a Docklands apartment and forced to express contrition. "I am sorry," he deadpans. "I am truly sorry. I am really very, very sorry..."

Lloyds was in similarly solemn, penitential mood yesterday, as the bank dangled over Imro's windowledge. "Lloyds Bank deeply regrets the errors... We are deeply sorry... A complete overhaul of business procedures... Good thing too, because what Lloyds did in the five years to 1993 would have disgraced Roger Levitt. To have come from one of our most respected high street banks simply shows how far up the industry the mis-selling went."

Lloyds' staff were turned loose armed with a few days' training and relief for their living almost entirely on commissions — the unspeakable in pursuit of the financially unsophisticated. They didn't bother to find out whether customers needed a different pension or whether they would lose money by transferring. Such behaviour was normal practice then.

Imro is not saying which other institutions are under investigation, but the TSB, regarded at the time as the hardest of hard sellers, is facing court action, and

its regulatory come-uppance cannot be too far off. But one has to wonder, and not for the first time, the point of levying a third of a million or so off such huge financial institutions. We are assured that the fines would have been higher but for the bank's co-operation.

This is an extraordinary statement. Given the need to identify and compensate victims, any institution that refuses to co-operate deserves to be shut down, with jail sentences for those employees who are feeling unhelpful. But plenty are refusing, with impunity, to help the Personal Investment Authority's inquiry into mis-selling to half a million customers.

By comparison, Lloyds has acted well, even if none of its staff have been disciplined because two management changes since 1993 have successfully muddled the waters.

There is a surreal, Alice-in-Wonderland quality to all this to the outsider, not helped by the tangle of acronyms involved. Imro governs fund managers and can fine. The SIB governs, among others, the Prudential

and the West Bromwich Building Society, heaven knows why, and cannot. Why not? The bogged-down PIA is a separate body again.

This mess is not going to sort itself out unaided. It is intolerable that a scandal like this can drag on for the best part of a decade since the wrongdoing was committed through bureaucracy, inertia and self-seeking evasion. It is now down to the next Parliament. Perhaps one of the main political parties could make a promise into their pre-election posturing. No one ever lost votes by kicking banks and insurance companies.

Happy hour again for cidemaker?

□ ANY number of fund managers ended last year dreading that they had never heard of Matthew Clark, the cidemaker that was one of the worst stock market casualties of 1996. Next week they will have their chance to renew the relationship.

The City can be a remarkably forgiving place, and the com-

PENNINGTON



pany may be forgiven the piles of cash that these fund managers lost last year if there are further profits ahead. The shares, now at their lowest ebb for almost seven years, look like they are heading for a recovery. They sell on seven times this year's profits, or about half the average for the sector, which suggests either that there is further trouble ahead, or that the City has overdone the fall.

The City always overreacts, and there are good reasons for supposing that the worst is over. Peter Aikens, the chief executive, and a man whom many consider lucky still to be in that job, started the rot with a warning in September about the effects of burgeoning alcohol sales on his Diamond White, which com-

petes for the same youth market. He will announce half-way figures on Tuesday and a vital trading update. Forecasts for profits for this full year are in the £45 million area, but no one really knows — some fear, probably wrongly, that a higher advertising spend could push the figure below £40 million. A few words of reassurance on Tuesday that the decline has bottomed out would work wonders.

Play the poor analysts. Dumbfounded by the sudden collapse of one of their go-go stocks and without the usual whispered guidance from the company, they are unable to produce firm forecasts until their hands are held again. However, their discomfort could be the investors' gain. There should be no more bad news from Matthew Clark. Mr Aikens has used up all his nine lives and if he is reassuring on Tuesday, as he must be, he knows that the bad better be telling the truth. He would not survive another shock.

The shares look a good two-way bet; if they stay at this level, a bid from one of the bigger drinks groups attracted by well-

known brands such as Blackthorn cider looks inevitable. More likely they will rebound once the City regains its nerve.

Growth potential in the nursery

□ SOMEONE, somewhere, is going to become very rich over the next five to ten years out of private nurseries. Women now make up almost half the workforce, and for high-fliers the pressure is on to minimise employment breaks. The structure of the business is strikingly similar to that of nursing homes a few years ago, and plenty of entrepreneurs, despite recent scandals, made their fortunes there.

The pre-school care market is worth £1.34 billion a year, a fifth of this comprising nurseries of the kind Whitbread, for entirely logical reasons, bought five of yesterday. There are no nationwide chains yet, although one American concern is well advanced down the franchising route, and most of the industry is in the hands of single-nursery operators. The economics work

thus. Each child brings in £100 a week or upwards. A qualified worker can look after as many as eight older children at once, being paid something like £250 a week plus additional employers' expenses. The sites are expensive to fit out and planning permission can be a trial. Any business requiring heavy initial investment and then producing such strong cash flow is suited to being part of a larger chain.

Branding encourages customer loyalty and reassures the parents that their little darlings are in safe hands. Regulation by local authorities is strict, and likely to become more so. The first stock market float of a specialised nursery chain cannot be too many years away.

Another yellow card

□ WHAT a splendid day for Singer & Friedlander to launch a new investment vehicle devoted entirely to football. Kevin Keegan's sudden departure from Newcastle United has cast a pall over the club's stock market flotation this spring. How much worse for investors it would have been if the club had floated, and then he had quit. This column two days ago highlighted the dangers of football investment, with the pay-off line "You have now been warned". You have now been warned again.

Asda may open bank

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

ASDA, the UK's fourth biggest supermarket chain, is considering following rivals J Sainsbury and Safeway by launching a bank.

The supermarket, which has 210 stores nationwide, said it was looking at various options in the financial services sector. A spokesman said: "It is always a possibility. It is not something we want to comment on." The store is believed to have been in talks with the Royal Bank of Scotland about providing the banking services. A spokesman for the bank said: "We do not comment on speculation."

The store is already piloting a loyalty card in 20 of its stores, but claims that it has no plans to make the card available nationwide, unlike rivals Sainsbury, Tesco and Safeway. Archie Norman, executive chairman of Asda, said that extending the availability of the card would be expensive.

Last year, Sainsbury became the first supermarket chain to announce that it planned to offer banking services to its customers, through a joint venture with Bank of Scotland. The move was swiftly followed by Safeway, which linked up with Abbey National.

At the end last year, Mr Norman said that the group planned to stick to the "simple business of shopkeeping" rather than follow its rivals into financial services. However, he added: "I do not rule it out." Asda made profits of £160 million in the six months to November 9 last year — an increase of 15.8 per cent. As well as the big increase in profits, sales grew 10.2 per cent, the biggest increase in the sector.

If Asda decides to follow Sainsbury and Safeway down the banking route, then pressure will mount on Tesco to provide similar services.

United Biscuits will make £35m charge to cover disposals

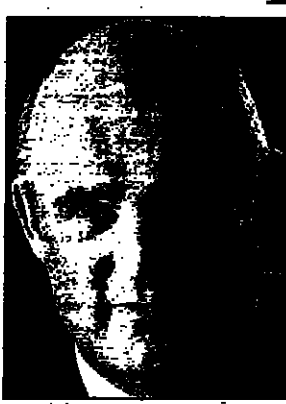
BY ALASDAIR MUIRRAV

UNITED BISCUITS, the snack foods company, revealed yesterday that it will make a £35 million exceptional charge to cover the goodwill write-off and costs associated with the sale of five of its international snack food businesses.

The company said that proceeds from the sales would total £10 million and the net effect of the disposals would be modestly earnings-enhancing. The five subsidiaries had net sales totalling £42 million in 1995 and made a combined operating loss of £2.6 million.

Eric Nicol, chief executive, said the disposal of the businesses had been made to tidy up and strengthen the balance sheet leaving the company with a solid platform for future growth. He added that full-year trading was in line with expectations.

United has made a series of



Nicol: "tidy up" operation

disposals in recent months as it attempts to withdraw from loss-making markets. Last month the company sold its Ross Vegetables subsidiary for £44 million and revealed it would take a £55 million write-off following the sale.

The latest disposals include a 60 per cent stake in ICA Spa, the Italian snack food com-

pany, which has been bought by the management and minority shareholder. United continues to operate in the Italian market through its subsidiary KP Snacksfoods.

The company added that it is in negotiations to sell its 30 per cent stake in Karigda, the second-largest snack food company in Turkey. United has also closed its small operations in Hungary although retaining a presence in the Hungarian biscuit market through Gyori Keksz.

The other sales include an 84 per cent stake in S&A Lda, the Portuguese snack food company, completing the company's withdrawal from the Iberian market, and the disposal of a 46 per cent interest in Agui, the Brazilian snack food company, to the majority shareholder. The shares closed up 5p, at 209p.

Tempus, page 26

Surge at British Borneo

SHARES of British Borneo Petroleum Syndicate, the oil explorer with interests in the Gulf of Mexico, rose 85p yesterday to 957p (Carl Mortished writes). Since Tuesday, when the company announced it had acquired an interest in BP's Nirvana field in the Gulf, British Borneo has gained 17 per cent in value or £86 million.

Bullish appraisals of its prospects in the Gulf of Mexico and hopes that it might attract a bidder have caused the shares to rise almost fivefold since January last year. However, some say the price may have gone too far. "There is just too much blue sky built up in that stock," said one broker.

Enterprise Oil announced a successful well test on the Norwegian Continental Shelf. The test produced gas at a 34.6 million cubic feet per day level plus 3,208 barrels of condensate. Oil search, page 26

ADT call to reject bid by Western

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

ADT, the security services and vehicle auction company headed by Michael Ashcroft, yesterday issued a profit warning for the fourth quarter as it advised shareholders to reject a \$3.5 billion takeover bid by Western Resources that it says is too low.

ADT said that it expected its net income for the last quarter of 1996 to drop by about \$60 million because of a one-off charge relating to new businesses, including the integration of Automated Securities Holdings, and investment in new technology.

ADT anticipates a total charge of \$110 million, which will be partly offset by a gain arising from the sale of the company's remaining interest in Linelight, the UK supplier of home improvement products.

It said that the integration of

the businesses into ADT should bring about significant future cost savings. ADT is contesting a bid from Western Resources, which launched its offer late last year. The offer is substantially less than the aborted \$5 billion bid from Republic Industries, run by Wayne Huizenga, the entrepreneur, which collapsed when Republic's share price fell sharply.

Although many analysts believe that the offer by Western is fair, ADT says the \$22.5 per share cash and stock offer is inadequate.

Western has spent months stalking ADT, building up a 27 per cent stake in the company before launching its bid. If it wins the takeover battle it is expected to break up ADT by selling off the car auction business, which is one of the largest in America.

Shortfall in patients knocks TC

THE City yesterday downgraded its earnings forecasts for TC Group after the nursing home company said its new homes were attracting fewer patients than expected (Eric Reguly writes).

The shares fell 25p to 114p, putting them below their previous low of 122p.

Chai Patel, chief executive of TC, which was formed last year by the merger of Takara and Court Cavendish, said the 22 homes opened in the past 12 months were filling slowly because of funding constraints from local authorities. He said: "The climate will remain fairly tough for the next year."

Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, downgraded TC's 1996 pre-tax earnings forecast from £19.3 million to £18.4 million. In 1997, it is calling for pre-tax earnings of £23 million against its previous forecast of £28.4 million. Tempus, page 26

Tills ring at JJB and Merchant

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BUOYANT trading before Christmas and the craze for replica football kits helped JJB Sports, the sports retailer, to report strong sales for the first 11 months of its financial year.

In the 48 weeks to December 29, sales at stores open for the whole period were 12 per cent ahead, the company said yesterday. It also disclosed that it has this week closed its three Spanish shops and expects this to cost it up to £400,000.

David Whelan, chairman, said that he was particularly pleased with progress by JJB's superstores. There are 21 out-of-town superstores and ten in-town, out of a total of 170 stores. JJB plans to open 38 stores in 1997, all but five of them superstores. A flagship 21,000 sq ft store in Oxford Street, London, is to open at the end of March.

Elsewhere, like-for-like sales by the Perfume Shop, part of



Whelan: sales up

the Merchant Retail Group, of which David Whelan is managing director, rose 18.6 per cent in the nine weeks to January 4. Group sales rose 17.1 per cent. Joplings, the department store division, reported a 3.3 per cent rise in like-for-like sales. Poor weather hit the start of its January sale, it said.

Scardino takes helm at Pearson

BY OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES of Pearson rose 8p to 738p yesterday as Marjorie Scardino officially took over as chief executive of the media and leisure company.

Ms Scardino, who becomes the first woman to head one of Britain's leading companies, has already said that Pearson's profit performance has been inadequate and disposals are expected as she aims for greater focus on core businesses.

Ms Scardino, a 49-year-old Texan, was formerly chief executive of The Economist Group, a magazine company half-owned by Pearson. Pearson said Ms Scardino spent her first day "meeting the troops" at the company's London headquarters.

Analysts are hoping for swift action to focus a company that is accused by critics of failing to exploit its prestigious assets.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Worries over sterling and interest rates hit shares

MOUNTING prospects of a rise in interest rates and sterling's strength continued to undermine sentiment.

Early gains among equities were halved as brokers began downgrading their profit estimates for the big dollar earners. The FT-SE 100 index, up almost 20 points at one stage, saw its lead reduced to just 8.7 at 4,087.5 by the close. The total number of shares traded reached 900 million.

The drugs sector bore the brunt of the downgrades as NatWest Securities, the broker, took out its red pencil. It is believed to have reduced its numbers for Glaxo Wellcome, down 15.1p at 397.1p, and Zeneca, 12.1p lower at £16.31.

More downgrades are expected within the next few days as the pound gains ground against its major rivals.

The profit-takers wasted little time in moving in on Dioxins after the group unveiled half-year figures and a trading update. The 53 per cent rise in first-half profits was followed with a 20 per cent leap in sales during the first eight weeks of the second half covering the run-up to Christmas. The new year sales had seen strong demand for white goods. The shares finished 28p down at 511p with brokers also worried about the impact of tax changes on extended warranties.

JJB Sports, unchanged at 265p, still sees sales well ahead of last year. During the 48 weeks to December 23 they soared by 44 per cent. Margins have been maintained, but the closure of three outlets in Spain will cost £400,000.

Argos, reporting tomorrow, slipped 3.1p to 727.1p along with Sears, 2.1p easier at 91.1p. WH Smith also dipped 2.1p to 465.1p after finalising the disposal of Niceday, its business supplies arm, to Guilbert, the French stationery office supplier.

There was further volatility in high-flying Lankia Trust, where the price touched £14 before bouncing back to close just 25p lower at £18. The speculators are still talking about a possible deal involving its mail order interests. Wickes again lost ground with the price falling another 20.1p to 170p.

A profits warning left Capital Corporation, the casino owner, 5p down at 153p. Pre-tax profits for the full year are



Cranswick's shares rose 7.1p as Bernard Hoggarth, left, and Martin Davy introduced their Black Sheep Ale Sausages

likely to fall well short of the £10 million to £11 million being forecast by brokers. The company says the dividend will be pegged at 8.1p and it blamed the absence of big spending gamblers during the last quarter and the start-up costs of its new Colony Club.

TC, the nursing homes group, was also hit by a profits warning, leaving the price

of four large depots in Germany from the receiver. The broker says buy up to the 200p level.

Elsewhere in the building sector Merrill has also taken a shine to Wolseley, urging clients to add to their holdings. It seems that worries about the weakness of the US economy on its operations have been overcome. The price has re-

turned from 500p since reporting full-year figures in October. The shares responded with a rise of 6p at 469p.

One company benefiting from the National Lottery is M J Gleeson, the construction group. Dermot Gleeson, chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that Budget cutbacks in spending on roads and social housing

were disappointing. But the industry had started to benefit from projects financed by the lottery. Gleeson was unmoved at 860p.

Cranswick, the food processor, enjoyed a sizzling performance with the price racing up 7.1p to a new high of 215p. The group is led by Martin Davy, chief executive, with Bernard Hoggarth as marketing director. They have launched a new line, Black Sheep Ale Sausages, which already seem to be going down well with investors.

Clyde held steady at 117p as Gulf Canada attacked the group's defence document, claiming that the sums do not add up. Gulf says Clyde's valuation was based on historic cash flow multiples which were irrelevant. Gulf's offer values Clyde at £472 million.

Headlam, the fast growing carpet distribution specialist, continues to go from strength to strength with the price adding 15p at 313.1p as the market reflected on recent acquisitions. In 1991 the company was valued at just £5 million but now boasts a price tag of £160 million.

Also hitting new heights was Waterfall, the snooker and pool leisure group, where the price firmed 2p to a new peak of 35p. Martin Callan, chief executive, last week snapped up a further 11,000 shares.

GILT-EDGED: A positive performance overnight by US Treasury bonds enabled London to score modest gains in thin trading. But gilts still underperformed German bunds with investors keeping a low profile ahead of tomorrow's US employment numbers.

The March series of the long gilt rose five ticks to £108.71 as turnover receded to a mere 30,000 contracts.

There was a further steepening of the yield curve as the short end of the market outperformed longer-dated issues.

Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £3.21 better at £102.13, while at the longer end Treasury 8 per cent 2015 was three ticks firmer at £101.33.

NEW YORK: Trading was volatile as the market tried to discount comments from the chairman of the New York Federal Reserve that shares were fully valued. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 19.24 points lower at 6,581.42.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6,581.42 (-19.24)
S&P Composite 753.42 (-4.19)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18,601.39 (-215.81)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 13,454.93 (+34.77)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 652.34 (+4.02)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2,415.0 (+14.3)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2,506.34 (+20.21)

Singapore:
Straits 2,042.26 (+3.3)

Brussels:
General 1,061.71 (+9.51)

Paris:
CAC-40 2,331.02 (+28.93)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 855.40 (+4.88)

London:
FT 30 2,797.9 (+6.5)

FT 100 4,087.5 (+8.7)

FTSE Mid 250 2,127.2 (+10.2)

FTSE 300 2,033.7 (+4.5)

FTSE Europe 100 1,929.44 (+17.78)

FT All-Share 2,004.44 (+5.29)

FT Non-Financials 2,081.74 (+10.3)

FT Financials 1,153.3 (+4.06)

FT Govt Secs 93.51 (+0.19)

SEAO Value 501.00

US\$ 1.6861 (-0.0077)

German Mark 2.6539 (-0.0054)

Bank of England official cash rate 4.00%

ECU 1.3622

LSMR 1.1800

15.9 Nov (2.7%) Jan 1997-100

15.7 Nov (3.3%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Aquarius 174.1 +2

BZW Endowment Red 53

Cadence 278.1 +3

Cell Telecom 279.1

Coverdale 127.1

Episcopo Network 55

Fountain Forestry 59

GB Railways 252.1 +10

Hardy Underwrt 175

Highams Systems 160

Linden 160.1

Netwell 127.1

On-Line 77.1

Oxford Biomedica 54.1 -5

Parkwood Holdings 74.1

Plat Tech 59.1

SDX Business Sys 220.1 +1

Sancru Music (S) 64.1 -1

Scott Highland Hts 127.1

Sunderland 717.1

Sutton Harbour 130 -1

West Bromwich Alb 620.1

Xenova 220 +10

Yeoman Group 157.1

Closing Prices Page 31

RECENT ISSUES

Compel Gp n/p (140) 4.1

Fisher J n/p (120) 25

Pressac Hldgs n/p 53 +10

Prism Rail n/p (300) 127

Arnpark n/p (142) 3

Shaftebury n/p (137) 21

Wicks n/p (150) 24.1 -22

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER: 500p (+85p)

Telecom 127.1 (+25p)

MAID 180.1 (+14p)

SDX Bus Sys 220.1 (+14p)

Headlam 313.1 (+15p)

Hardy O3 315p (+15p)

Chrysalis 547.1 (+25p)

Sun Life & Prov 274p (+11p)

FALLS:

Blooms Int 685p (-65p)

Hunth Tech 184p (-12p)

Thorp n/p (127p)

Hamleys 380p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 31

TEMPUS

Looking down the barrel

HOW do you value an oil exploration company? The bid battle between Clyde Petroleum and Gulf Canada, the predator, has become an argument about valuation methodologies. The former wants investors to use multiples of its cash flow; these make Clyde look relatively cheap. However, Gulf points out that on any measure of Clyde's net asset value (estimates range from 75p to 84p), its bid of 105p per share offers a handsome premium.

Cash-flow multiples, used widely in America, offer the comfort of valuing a flow of income rather than putting a price on oil reserves that are still in the ground. However, a valuation must look forward if it is to be of any use to an investor, and a net asset value is merely a store of future cash flows.

In that sense, bidder and target are talking

about the same thing, using different language. But a row about whether Clyde Petroleum's glass is half full or half empty is not as futile as it sounds. Valuing large diversified oil companies on their predictable cash flows is easy, but exploration companies have a life cycle. In the early years, when most of their assets are in the ground, cash flow is meagre and multiples should be high. As production builds up, multiples decline until the next big discovery.

At 117p, Clyde is priced at five times its estimated 1996 cash flow. The Canadian bidder criticises Clyde for lack of exploration potential. However, Gulf is not chasing Clyde for hidden barrels but for its cash flow. Clyde has built up production with clever deals and Gulf will need to raise its bid by at least 10p to secure the prize.

Dioxins

DIXONS has come clean on the money it makes from extended warranties. After years of tip-toeing round the issue, it revealed yesterday that warranties account for 8.5 per cent of sales, around 15 per cent of gross profits and 10 per cent of pre-tax profits. This is lower than some estimates but still a lot of money.

The arrival of *glasnost* at Dioxins comes in the wake of its discovery that changes to the rules on taxing insurance will affect the extended warranties it offers to customers in its shops. This means that profits could suffer a nasty blow. Naturally the company has no intention of absorbing all of the pain. So, later this year, shoppers can expect to find not only warranty prices rising, but also the price of some products.

United Biscuits

UNITED BISCUITS has gone a small way towards making amends for a decade of underperformance. The crumbs offered are a series of foreign disposals and, together with the sale of Ross vegetables in December, they represent an attempt to tidy up the company's sprawling interests. Writing off the goodwill will play havoc with this year's balance sheet but the City rewarded UB yesterday for a move in the right direction, with a token fillip to the shares.

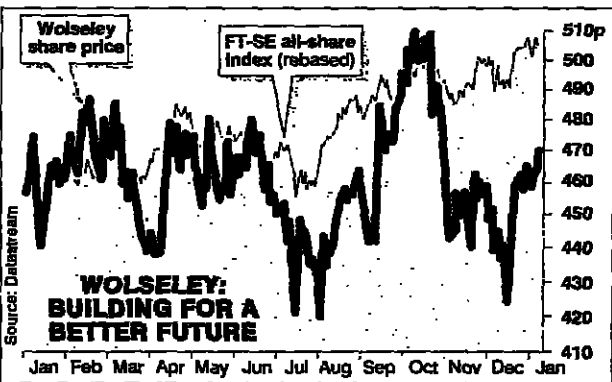
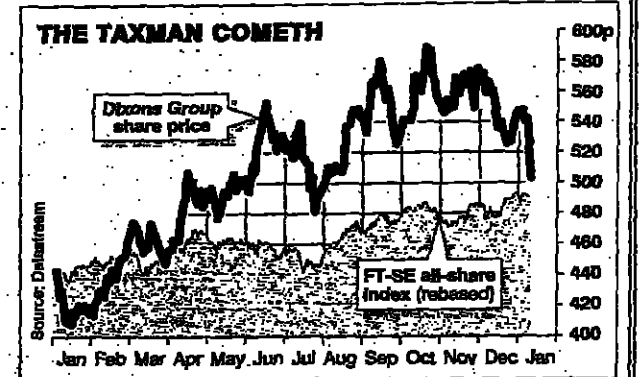
The feeling remains that United is doing too little, too late to arrest years of decline. As a result of its exit from underperforming foreign markets, United Biscuits is more reliant on the UK, which now contributes around 70 per cent of total earnings. Yet its record is hardly inspiring, with rivals such as Walkers, owned by PepsiCo, stealing the lion's share of the snack market.

TC Group

BEING TC Cat in the nursing home sector is no big deal and yesterday TC Group proved it to the satisfaction of any doubter. Back in September, when Count Cavendish decided to link its fortunes to the stumbling Takare group, the notion was that 'more would be made of the combined assets of £260 million. The trouble is that half of the group is still dependent on local authorities who cannot or will not pay for beds. As a result TC Group is struggling to fill its new accommodation and the vacancies will lop £5 million from current year profits. The company is vaguely hopeful that

firms may be unable to absorb the cost — so the big chains may profit as the weak fall by the wayside.

Investors took the opportunity to cash in some profits yesterday and the shares could fall further. It will be some months before Dioxins reveals its strategy and only then will the market get a perspective on 1997-98 profits.



COMMODITIES

LIFE

COFFEE
Mar 97 379.00 May 97 370.00
Jul 97 360.00 Sep 97 350.00
Nov 97 340.00 Jan 98 330.00
Mar 98 320.00 May 98 310.00
Jul 98 300.00 Sep 98 290.00
Nov 98 280.00 Jan 99 270.00
Mar 99 260.00 May 99 250.00
Jul 99 240.00 Sep 99 230.00
Nov 99 220.00 Jan 00 210.00
Mar 00 200.00 May 00 190.00
Jul 00 180.00 Sep 00 170.00
Nov 00 160.00 Jan 01 150.00
Mar 01 140.00 May 01 130.00
Jul 01 120.00 Sep 01 110.00
Nov 01 100.00 Jan 02 90.00
Mar 02 80.00 May 02 70.00
Jul 02 60.00 Sep 02 50.00
Nov 02 40.00 Jan 03 30.00
Mar 03 20.00 May 03 10.00
Jul 03 0.00 Sep 03 -10.00
Nov 03 -20.00 Jan 04 -30.00
Mar 04 -40.00 May 04 -50.00
Jul 04 -60.00 Sep 04 -70.00
Nov 04 -80.00 Jan 05 -90.00
Mar 05 -100.00 May 05 -110.00
Jul 05 -120.00 Sep 05 -130.00
Nov 05 -140.00 Jan 06 -150.00
Mar 06 -160.00 May 06 -170.00
Jul 06 -180.00 Sep 06 -190.00
Nov 06 -200.00 Jan 07 -210.00
Mar 07 -220.00 May 07 -230.00
Jul 07 -240.00 Sep 07 -250.00
Nov 07 -260.00 Jan 08 -270.00
Mar 08 -280.00 May 08 -290.00
Jul 08 -300.00 Sep 08 -310.00
Nov 08 -320.00 Jan 09 -330.00
Mar 09 -340.00 May 09 -350.00
Jul 09 -360.00 Sep 09 -370.00
Nov 09 -380.00 Jan 10 -390.00
Mar 10 -400.00 May 10 -410.00
Jul 10 -420.00 Sep 10 -430.00
Nov 10 -440.00 Jan 11 -450.00
Mar 11 -460.00 May 11 -470.00
Jul 11 -480.00 Sep 11 -490.00
Nov 11 -500.00 Jan 12 -510.00
Mar 12 -520.00 May 12 -530.00
Jul 12 -540.00 Sep 12 -550.00
Nov 12 -560.00 Jan 13 -570.00
Mar 13 -580.00 May 13 -590.00
Jul 13 -600.00 Sep 13 -610.00
Nov 13 -620.00 Jan 14 -630.00
Mar 14 -640.00 May 14 -650.00
Jul 14 -660.00 Sep 14 -670.00
Nov 14 -680.00 Jan 15 -690.00
Mar 15 -700.00 May 15 -710.00
Jul 15 -720.00 Sep 15 -730.00
Nov 15 -740.00 Jan 16 -750.00
Mar 16 -760.00 May 16 -770.00
Jul 16 -780.00 Sep 16 -790.00
Nov 16 -800.00 Jan 17 -810.00
Mar 17 -820.00 May 17 -830.00
Jul 17 -840.00 Sep 17 -850.00
Nov 17 -860.00 Jan 18 -870.00
Mar 18 -880.00 May 18 -890.00
Jul 18 -900.00 Sep 18 -910.00
Nov 18 -920.00 Jan 19 -930.00
Mar 19 -940.00 May 19 -950.00
Jul 19 -960.00 Sep 19 -970.00
Nov 19 -980.00 Jan 20 -990.00
Mar 20 -1000.00 May 20 -1010.00
Jul 20 -1020.00 Sep 20 -1030.00
Nov 20 -1040.00 Jan 21 -1050.00
Mar 21 -1060.00 May 21 -1070.00
Jul 21 -1080.00 Sep 21 -1090.00
Nov 21 -1100.00 Jan 22 -1110.00
Mar 22 -1120.00 May 22 -1130.00
Jul 22 -1140.00 Sep 22 -1150.00
Nov 22 -1160.00 Jan 23 -1170.00
Mar 23 -1180.00 May 23 -1190.00
Jul 23 -1200.00 Sep 23 -1210.00
Nov 23 -1220.00 Jan 24 -1230.00
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Nov 34 -1880.00 Jan 35 -1890.00
Mar 35 -1900.00 May 35 -1910.00
Jul 35 -1920.00 Sep 35 -1930.00
Nov 35 -1940.00 Jan 36 -1950.00
Mar 36 -1960.00 May 36 -1970.00
Jul 36 -1980.00 Sep 36 -1990.00
Nov 36 -2000.00 Jan 37 -2010.00
Mar 37 -2020.00 May 37 -2030.00
Jul 37 -2040.00 Sep 37 -2050.00
Nov 37 -2060.00 Jan 38 -2070.00
Mar 38 -2080.00 May 38 -2090.00
Jul 38 -2100.00 Sep 38 -2110.00
Nov 38 -2120.00 Jan 39 -2130.00
Mar 39 -2140.00 May 39 -2150.00
Jul 39 -2160.00 Sep 39 -2170.00
Nov 39 -2180.00 Jan 40 -2190.00
Mar 40 -2200.00 May 40 -2210.00
Jul 40 -2220.00 Sep 40 -2230.00
Nov 40 -2240.00 Jan 41 -2250.00
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Jul 52 -2940.00 Sep 52 -2950.00
Nov 52 -2960.00 Jan 53 -2970.00
Mar 53 -2980.00 May 53 -2990.00
Jul 53 -3000.00 Sep 53 -3010.00
Nov 53 -3020.00 Jan 54 -3030.00
Mar 54 -

THE TIMES

CITY DIARY

Chelsea man backs Arsenal

TALK of treachery from the Momentum Premier Sports Partners. After the announcement that the first investment fund focused exclusively on sports shares grew 66 per cent in the eight months since its launch, I spot some riches in its portfolio. Chelsea FC, Liverpool FC, Manchester United, Arsenal, Wimbledon, and, er, Arsenal debentures? Michael Goldman, managing director and a fanatical Chelsea supporter, tells me that it won't be long before he paints those seats blue.

Squeezee clean

A DOUBLE delight for window cleaners at Rentokil Initial. The business services company is sending two of its best to Las Vegas this month to compete against window cleaners from across the globe at Bailey's Hotel. Terry Burrows and John McClean, will be defending Burrows' world record. Essexman Burrows, who has been cleaning windows for two decades, earned his place in the Guinness Book of Records last year, when he shattered the fastest time for cleaning three large windows. Meanwhile, they have formed a band called The Squeezers, and are releasing their first CD - *The Squeezee Song*.



"I can't believe it - mother's nursing home has issued a profits warning"

WILEY Michael Foot has escaped the cold weather. The head of the banking supervision division at the Bank of England, is at a conference in the Cayman Islands. Now, what fun would a chess-playing choral singer find there?

Art clocked

SIR Richard Sykes is particularly astute when it comes to pleasing Sir Nicholas Goodison. The deputy chairman and chief executive of Glaxo-Wellcome is hosting a private view at Christie's to celebrate 15 years of acquisition by the National Art Collections Fund, of which Sir Nicholas is chairman. The 150 exhibits in "Treasures of Britain" range from the Becket Casket to the 15th-century Richard III. Sir Richard says his favourite item is a 1766 clock, made by Thomas Mudge. And what is Sir Nicholas's favourite subject? Clocks.

The black sheep

THE dark past of Cranswick's new sausage is beginning to surface. "The Black Sheep" is made from pork and Black Sheep Ale. The latter comes from Paul Theakston's brewery, named after Theakston, who fell out with his powerful family and set up on his own. If this doesn't put you off the new banger, maybe news that Cranswick's also deal in tropical fish and bird seed will.

HAPPY Birthday Cranswick. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the "new town", the high street branch of Lloyds Bank will be serving free champagne. Midland will be offering its customers a chance to try their luck with a cash-roulette. NatWest, Barclays, and Royal Bank, aren't doing anything. Bah humbug.

MORAG PRESTON

From now until the election, newspapers will be asking serious questions and politicians will be failing to answer them. For instance, the one thing Labour and Conservative parties agree on, so far, is that they could not possibly say whether they intend sterling to be absorbed into a European currency in 1999. Yet the issue is even more important than the maximum size of primary school classes, the decision is about a year off, virtually all the key parameters are now known and the public would need a deal of convincing (or at least threatening) in a referendum.

Such questions still ought to be asked and will be asked. Anxious business folk might get better answers if they pose questions they can answer themselves. Such as, who are the Government's enemies going to be? This is a more vital issue than most remember. For all managers' gripes about Whitehall and the twin slumps, private enterprise business has been the object of good intentions over the past 17 years.

The enemies have, it seems, been independent power centres not accountable to market forces, including trade unions, local government, public service professionals such as teachers and doctors, the Church of England, the BBC and civil servants. In the early days, before its re-education, even the CBI put itself in the firing line.

Being seen as an enemy, however subconscious, has not been a comfortable experience. In spite of thorough reforms in the mid-1980s, most of the coal-mining industry was sacrificed for the greater good

How to avoid being an enemy of the rebel without a cause



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

of dishing Arthur Scargill. More recently, British Gas, which had outgunned its old Whitehall masters before privatisation, was destroyed for an idea and a bit of revenge, in spite of being the apotheosis of mass share ownership. If John Major survives, the drive for political correctness will even reach Treasury economic forecasts. Sir Alan Budd, head of the Government Economic Service would doubtless become the properly incentivised, market-temperamented chief executive of Govfront plc.

Labour is, however, likely to have more enemies than the Tories. Many Tory targets, especially trade unions, were enemies for a reason. They were in the way of a radical government's central economic reforms. New Labour is a rebel without a cause. It has no big programme for change and its instincts are muzzled in central policies. It will need enemies. Anyone representing social or economic privilege, anyone indulging in politically incorrect behaviour such as smoking or parking, had better beware, even if they are not doing much harm.

Herbert Asquith billed the House of Lords so that Lloyd George, his Chancellor, could establish an embryo welfare state.

Tony Blair will biff hereditary peers because they are there. Privatised utilities are forewarned. They have been Labour's Aunt Sally since they were privatised. They are set up for a one-off levy that many can still afford but all could have afforded more easily in 1991-95. The more intelligent are trying to avoid it becoming annual.

British Telecom, the pioneer, discovered years ago that a chairman waving his bonus did his company a good deed. Its later offer to Labour to give Britain an information superhighway, in exchange for remov-

ing a bar on new business, showed how to meld good politics with good business, even if the blueprint has since faded.

Water companies, which suffer from being entrenched monopolies with rising prices as well as privatised, are also finally catching on. Yesterday, the nine remaining members of the Water Services Association published a manifesto of visions and promises that might soften the hardest Labour heart. In one sense, there is nothing terribly new in it. The big difference is that the companies have now cheerfully embraced a compact with the public what they are going to have to do anyway under regulatory or political pressure. That is a key psychological change, from being defensive to being outgoing. If it is wholehearted, it will, over time, subtly change the way the businesses operate and sort their priorities, not just be an herculean public relations exercise. It is an object lesson to other parts of business that are liable to come under unfriendly fire from a Labour government.

Wasteful polluting industries, for instance, will be well advised to stop swimming against the tide. Instead, they should draw up

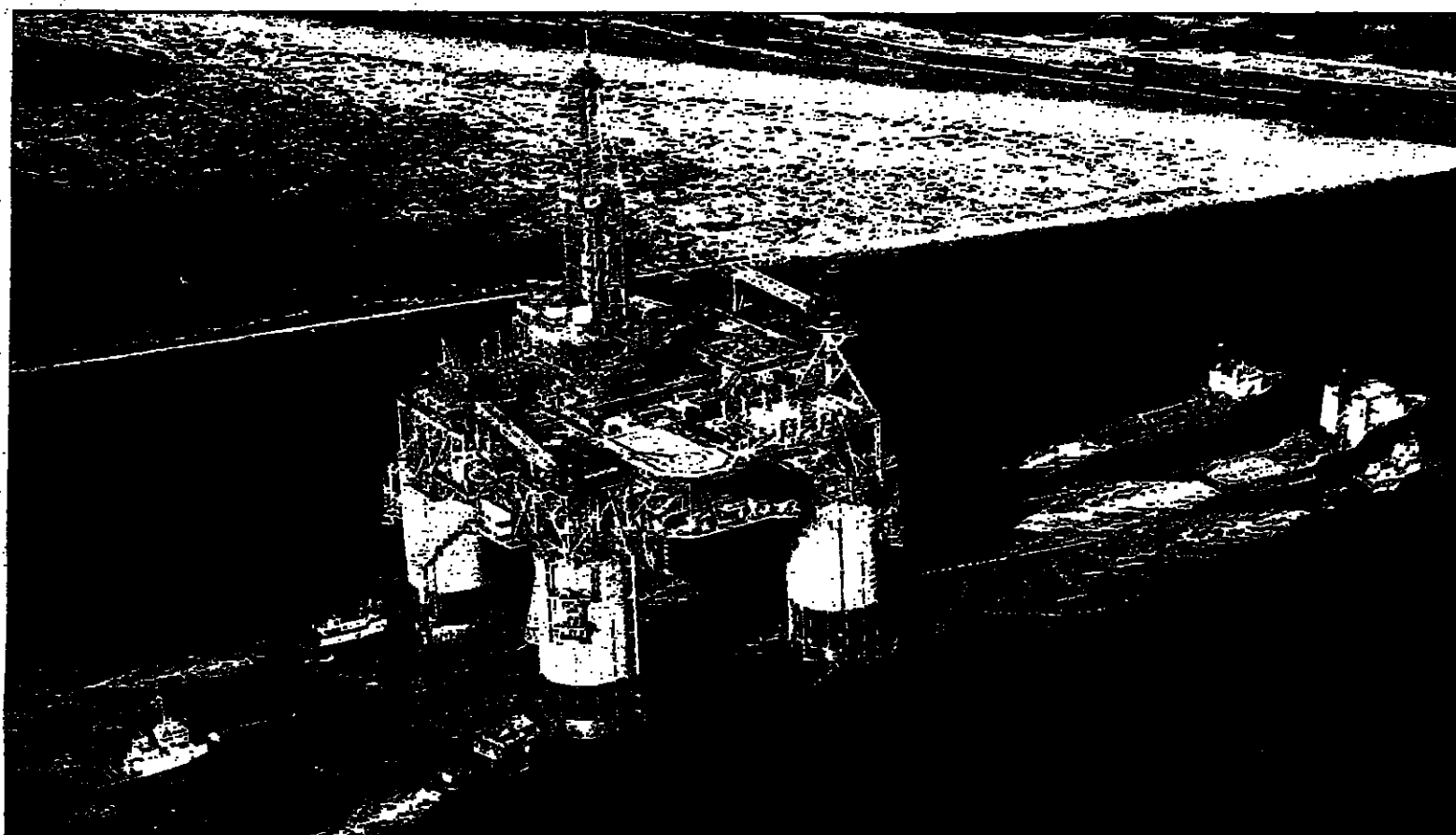
their own measured, costed plans to clean up their act, then go to government to ask for a corresponding programmed tightening in environmental rules to protect them from shabby competitors and, if necessary, to claim tax aid from Whitehall or cash aid from Brussels. If more companies of all kinds adopted environmental audits, and even the social audits pioneered by a few right-on companies, these exercises should become more worthwhile and might well pay for themselves in cash as well as defence against new Labour's vulgar abuse.

The City and its professions know that Labour favours statutory regulation in principle, even if the exact status or structure of regulation is pretty irrelevant to the task of ensuring that markets are clean, customers can have confidence and practitioners are not weighed down by huge costs. There is little point in defending the existing, politically incorrect system, when it is little different from a fully statutory model in practice. In accountancy and some parts of the City, plans have been prepared in private for such a change. The task is to offer Labour a model that achieves what the City wants, not wait for Labour to impose one of the more bureaucratic models on show.

Saving boardroom fat cats from ire is probably impossible, whatever upright new ideas emerge from big business's Hampel committee. But that is only because Labour seems unlikely to tackle the issue by raising top rates of tax. Beneficial of such inaction may think it a small price to be enemies of the people.

Carl Mortished on a development likely to eclipse the North Sea

The search for oil turns to Mars



Shell's Mars tension leg platform being towed to its location in 2,940 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico where oilfields promise huge rewards

Out in the Gulf of Mexico, the oil industry is enjoying a new boom. Rig workers in California are packing their bags and moving to New Orleans where oil companies are desperate for staff to man offshore platforms and drill rigs. The prospect of huge new finds has attracted companies from the UK and many believe the deep waters of the Gulf could soon eclipse the North Sea as the world's most exciting oil province.

Oil is not news in Louisiana. A helicopter flight from New Orleans into the Gulf of Mexico will tell you why. From this vantage point, the swamps of the Mississippi delta region, criss-crossed with canals, eventually give way to open water. Yet the ocean is not empty; as far as the eye can see it is populated by black objects with legs, like a pond covered in water-crawling insects.

These are the legacy of the Gulf of Mexico's first oil boom. Within miles of the shore, the surface of the sea is covered with oil platforms, mostly small installations in shallow water, designed to tap fields of modest size. This is what the oil industry calls a mature province. The technology is well understood and water depths of 500 feet or so are not challenging. In the shallow water, oil production is dwindling and some fields are in the process of abandonment. Platforms are dismantled and the steel towers towed to designated sites for dumping.

Production in the shallow water of the continental shelf is inexpensive but unexciting. Typical flow rates from wells might be only 1,000 to 2,000 barrels per day. But companies such as Shell, BP and Texaco are fishing in deeper and more dangerous waters, drilling wells that produce 10,000 to 15,000 barrels per day with ease.

Flying further out into the Gulf, the sprinkling of old oil platforms ends and the horizon is empty except for a faint smoke trail from a distant flare. Here at the edge of the

continental shelf, in water depths from 1,500 to 10,000 feet, is where the oil industry sees its future.

Developing Mars, a 500-million barrel oilfield, cost Shell and its 28 per cent partner, BP, about \$1.2 billion, but the oil companies reckon that it is a bargain, having shaved about \$200 million from the original budget. Only ten years ago, no one in the industry would have thought it possible to produce oil at such depths, but the technology now exists to drill wells 10,000 feet under the sea and Shell is working on automated sub-sea production systems and spar-shaped floating structures that work in much deeper water than Mars.

The Gulf of Mexico's deep water has turned Shell Oil, the multinational's independent-

minded US subsidiary, into the darling of the Anglo-Dutch energy group. It was not always so. Five years ago, Shell Oil was the problem child. As Jerre Brew, financial manager at Shell Offshore in New Orleans, puts it: "We were reeling. A lot of analysts were saying we were a drag on Shell." Shell Oil picked up its deep-water Gulf leases in the late 1980s at a time when other US oil majors were charging off to Latin America and the Far East. As a mere subsidiary, Shell Oil had to focus on its home turf and no one then believed oil could be produced economically from such depths.

Shell's first big success was with Auger, a 200-million barrel plus field at a depth of 2,860 feet. Mr Brew admitted to being initially worried

about budgets based on well production rates of 7,000 to 8,000 barrels per day. But Auger has beaten all forecasts since it came on stream in April 1994, producing 21,752 barrels per day.

Such achievements and the prospect of big profits have sent rival oil companies flocking to the Gulf and competition for leases has intensified.

Estimates of the total reserves in the deep water province range from eight to 15 billion barrels. Such figures would seem to justify claims that the Gulf of Mexico could quickly seize the crown of the world's most attractive oil province from the North Sea where new discoveries are not keeping pace with production. According to Alan Gaynor,

British Borneo Petroleum's chief executive, the Gulf beats the North Sea on many fronts. "The cost of doing business in the Gulf for the size of the prize is less than anywhere else in the world. Morpeth (field) is about 50 million barrels and the development cost is about \$3 to \$4 per barrel. That is half the cost and double the opportunity compared with a typical North Sea field."

British Borneo is allocating 85 per cent of its capital expenditure to the Gulf, compared with just 15 per cent to the UK and the reason is tax and development costs. Harsher conditions in the North Sea and the absence of an extensive pipeline network mean higher costs, he suggests. Rig rates are also higher; Mr Gaynor reckons a rig hired by British Borneo for

\$90,000 per day in the Gulf would cost \$140,000 in the North Sea.

The sudden increase in activity is now sending rig rates up sharply in the Gulf. However, Mr Gaynor reckons that a royalty holiday on new leases in deep water and the ability to deduct all costs gives

British Borneo an effective initial tax rate of 20 per cent in the Gulf. That compares with the UK's 33 per cent tax rate on new fields.

Leases are awarded for ten years in the Gulf to the highest bidder and there is an absence of diplomatic intrigue, expensive signature bonuses and presents for the oil minister's wife. No one finds it odd that an Anglo-Dutch company and a British company (Shell and BP) should be the top two leaseholders in the deep water, accounting for almost 40 per cent of the leased acreage.

Drilling activity is set to explode and Shell Oil is concerned that rivals are trying to poach its staff in a market where expertise can name its price.

Yet the US arm of the multinational has an impressive schedule of projects aimed at increasing deep-water oil production to equal Shell Oil's total current annual production of some 250 to 300 million barrels per year. Up to nine projects are to be launched over the next three to four years.

But such a massive spending programme should be a relief rather than a headache to the Royal Dutch/Shell group, which has \$8 billion of cash to invest. After a grim period of bloodletting, companies such as Shell and BP are looking for fast and safe ways to make a buck. Having scoured more exotic corners of the world, they are again making big money in the country where it all started.

Sharing available work more fairly

From Mr Anthony J. Roberts
Sir, Christine Buckley (December 23) paints a depressing picture of, worsening, work conditions and shows that the number of those working more than 48 hours per week has risen to 3.9 million.

Many of those in work are forced to do far longer hours than they would wish, often to the detriment of family and social life. However, this trend also has serious implications for the unemployed.

If the total of the long hours worked by these 3.9 million, which I would calculate at the rate of a conservative estimate of say 50 hours per week per person, was worked instead at the rate of only 40 hours per week per person, then over 4.8 million employees would be required - in other words, potentially, a further 9,000,000 employees would be needed.

With a 40-hour week there is surely a chance that the available work would be shared more fairly and equitably among far more people and, thereby, a substantial reduction in unemployment would be achieved. Yours faithfully, ANTHONY J. ROBERTS, 10 Oxen Avenue, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex

Great British public will pay for society conversions

From R.G. Small

Sir, £16 billion is not being distributed by certain building societies ("Investors must act fast to qualify for society bonuses", December 26).

What is happening is that a huge issue of shares is to be made by those societies, after an inordinately long wait in some cases and after a huge amount of investors' and borrowers' money has been spent on City fees, administration, printing, postage and so on. Perhaps as much as £600 million.

It is the Great British

public who will pay out the £16 billion to each other in the months and years following demutualisation. Some of the money is already lodged in pension funds and unit trusts awaiting suitable investment opportunities.

Some will come from people who decide that to hold a piece of paper labelled XYZ bank is preferable in the long term to holding cash in banks, building societies or even pockets.

Those people will be matched by existing shareholders who decide that holding cash is better than holding the previously mentioned shares - cash being wanted

for spending now (inflation-ary) or for other investment opportunities, perhaps overseas.

The market - and only the market - will value these forthcoming issues. And the money can only come from the people, not the societies.

Of course, I do hope that the issues will be carried out with the 100 per cent efficiency we are all expecting.

And could it still happen that one or more of the issues is "pulled" at the last moment? Yours faithfully, R.G. SMALL, 113 Heybridge Avenue, SW16.

Explanation of delays at Lloyd's

From the General Manager, Communications, Lloyd's of London

Sir, Sir Guy Millard (Business Letters, January 7) asserts that no explanation has been forthcoming from Lloyd's for the late payment of members' surpluses resulting from completion of the reconstruction and renewal programme. This is not so.

A number of letters have been dispatched to relevant members and their agents regarding payment procedures. The most recent, on December 18, from Lloyd's chief executive officer, Ron Sandler, to all affected members, specifically addressed the matter of delays in payments, explained their background and apologised for their occurrence.

There is no way that such openness can be described in the terms used by Sir Guy. Yours faithfully, PETER HILL, Lloyd's of London, One Lime Street, EC3.

Letters to the Business section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

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Water industry replies to critics

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE water industry yesterday tried to launch "a fightback" in response to fierce attacks by customer groups and Labour on its performance, but ran into fresh criticism for hollow promises and not shifting more benefits from shareholders to consumers.

The Water Services Association (WSA), representing the nine largest privatised water companies, said that it had drafted a range of pledges to "make sure our customers have the water they want when they want it". The association said that it had set the goals, which do not have specific targets or deadlines, in response to criticism of the industry over the past two years. John Green, chairman, said: "We do acknowledge that we haven't always got it right."

The move comes after the 1995 drought and big dividends from water groups.

The WSA conceded that criticism of leakage was warranted, but set no fresh targets from the band of goals offered a year ago to the Department of the Environment. It said that outperformance by water companies would be shared between customers and shareholders, but would not identify how that would be done.

Elizabeth Monck, head of the Thames division of Ofwat's national consumer council, said that the initiative must be seen as a failure if it did not outline how benefits would be moved to customers. She said: "Customers are concerned with what goes to shareholders... Customers want a much clearer message about where the benefits are coming to them."

Frank Dobson, Labour's water spokesman, said: "These first few steps by the water bosses are welcome, but still inadequate. Labour will ensure they deliver much more to local people and the environment."

The WSA said it would have to "wait and see" the effect of a Labour windfall tax.

Eric Reguly on New York's epic battle over glamorous locations.

'Queen of Mean' ready to defend property empire



Leona Helmsley: accused



The late Harry Helmsley

The death of Harry Helmsley is expected to trigger an epic battle for one of America's biggest and most glamorous property empires. At stake is the management and ownership of some of New York's best-known towers, including the Empire State building.

The fight will pit Leona Helmsley, Harry's widow, against Irving Schneider and Alvin Schwartz, two of Harry's top lieutenants and partners. They were fighting Leona well before Harry's death, at the age of 87, last Saturday.

Last year Schneider and Schwartz brought a lawsuit against Leona, accusing her of looting Helmsley-Spear, the property management firm at the centre of the empire. The two men were apparently worried that they would inherit an insolvent company — Harry had allegedly granted them the right to buy Helmsley-Spear at a bargain price on his death.

Leona promises to be a formidable opponent. She has detailed knowledge of her husband's companies — she took control of his affairs after he suffered a stroke in the 1980s — and has a fearsome temper. The "Queen of Mean", as Leona became known during her trial for tax evasion, is out of prison and, by all accounts, is ready and willing to stand her ground again.

Harry Helmsley never found fame as a landlord. For most of his career, he was largely unknown outside of property circles even though he had amassed a portfolio that spanned some 50 million square feet, much of it in New York City.

In addition to the Empire State building, he was the owner or part-owner of One Penn Plaza, the Lincoln, Graybar and Fisk buildings, the Toy Center, around 50,000 apartments and thousands of hotel rooms.

According to *Everybody's Business*, a corporate guide to America, he never sought

luxury. They moved into a ten-room flat with indoor pool atop the Park Lane Hotel, a Helmsley holding. There was a mansion in Greenwich, Connecticut, a condominium in Palm Beach, Florida, and a private jet.

Leona was put in charge of Helmsley's hotel business. The hotels, which included the Harley (taken after their first names), the Helmsley Carlton House and the St Moritz, earned reputations for impeccable service. They were closely identified with the dominating Leona, whose photograph was usually splattered across advertisements for the hotels. By the 1980s, Leona was as much of a celebrity as Donald Trump.

The dream shattered in 1989 when Leona and Harry were indicted for tax evasion. They were accused of buying all manner of goodies — among them a \$210,000 mahogany table, a \$45,000 silver clock and a \$210,000 stereo system — and charging them as business expenses.

The press went wild as the witnesses, many of them employees, were given the opportunity to vent their rage. One called the Helmsleys' Greenwich home a "boot camp for servants". The *People* magazine cover story about Leona was headlined: "Greedy, Greedy, Greedy", and another carried the line "rhymes with rich" next to her picture.

Harry avoided prosecution because of ill-health, but Leona was given a four-year sentence for dodging taxes. She served 18 months.

Harry was buried on Tuesday in Brooklyn's Woodlawn Cemetery. Messrs Schneider and Schwartz attended and, according to Howard Rubenstein who acted as Harry's spokesman for the past 30 years, they "had a cordial but brief discussion with Leona".

It may be their last. Mr Rubenstein said that lawyers from each side are already assembling.



The Empire State building, one of the prestigious holdings in the Helmsley portfolio

Cinven acquires microbe business

By PAUL DURMAN

CINVEN, the investment capital firm, has bought Unilever's microbe testing business in a deal involving £84.6 million of financing.

Oxoid, the microbiology arm of Unilever's Unipath subsidiary, makes tests based on the century-old method that uses agar jelly, a growth medium for bacteria. Its products are used in hygiene and impurity testing by hospitals, food and drink companies and in the pharmaceuticals industry.

The sale of Oxoid follows Unilever's decision that Unipath should concentrate on its consumer goods interests, which include Clearblue pregnancy testing kits and Persena, the recently launched electronic contraception device.

Unilever said that sales of Persena, currently available only through Boots, are progressing "extremely well". The device, which costs about £50, gives a computerised reading of the hormones in a woman's ovary, indicating when it is "safe" to have sexual intercourse.

Oxoid became part of Unilever when it took over Brooke Bond Oxo in 1984. It is based at Basingstoke, has about 600 employees, and annual sales of around £60 million. The growing microbiology market is worth an estimated \$1.6 billion a year.

Oxoid's management, headed by Mike Smith, its managing director, will have a stake of less than 15 per cent in the buyout company. Kevin Wheeler, Cinven's marketing director, said that the company is likely to seek to realise its investment, probably through a flotation, in three or four years.

Cinven provided the bulk of the £40 million of equity finance, with smaller sums contributed by management. The Royal Bank of Scotland has provided a £45 million borrowing facility.

Unilever did not disclose how much it had received for Oxoid.

ACCOUNTANCY

The right board for the job

Anthony Carey outlines the ICA's submission to the Hampel committee on corporate governance

THE prime responsibility for effective corporate governance rests with the board of directors of a company. Shareholders and auditors can necessarily play only a secondary role. This robust approach has been adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales in its response to the consultation exercise undertaken by Sir Ronald Hampel's committee on corporate governance.

The institute believes that the emphasis should be on ensuring, as far as possible, that the right board is in place and that companies observe essential corporate governance standards and are seen to do so. The ability to enforce such standards, while hopefully seldom required, is regarded as important. With these safeguards in place, companies should be left to run their businesses and to compete vigorously in the ever tougher global marketplace.

One of the great strengths of the unitary board is the potential it offers for objectiveness in the governance of a company. It is therefore vital that the board be collectively responsible for the decisions it takes. We must avoid executive directors being seen as having

responsibility for promoting competitiveness and non-executive directors for securing accountability. The board as a whole must advance both these objectives simultaneously. Their joint attainment is essential if a company is to enjoy sustainable success.

The construction of a well-balanced board requires that no single individual has unfettered power at the top of the company and that board members, taken together, have the necessary range of skills and attributes to take the company forward. This will require, among other factors, that the board has a sufficient number of high-calibre independent non-executive directors.

In the four years since the publication of the Cadbury report, best practice has evolved in relation to the splitting of the roles of chairman and chief executive. More than three quarters of the top 1,500 listed companies no longer combine these positions in one person. Given the different nature of the two functions, with the chairman being responsible for the running of the company, the institute considers the Cadbury code should now be amended to call explicitly



Anthony Carey says there is a need for well-balanced boards

for their respective powers to be held by separate directors. Hampel could usefully examine the implications of chief executives moving up to become chairmen of their companies, a fairly frequent occurrence in recent years. In these circumstances, it will clearly be difficult for the chairman to appraise past executive decisions critically.

The provisions in the Cadbury code, requiring com-

panies to have three non-executive directors of whom the majority should be independent, should be streamlined to require them to have at least two independent non-executives. This would help smaller listed companies in particular. To be fully effective, non-executive directors should be independent (eg, not former executive directors) and, in this context, audit committees should be wholly

made up of independent directors. There may also be merit in selecting non-executive directors from a broader pool than at present. Senior academics and leaders of not-for-profit organisations are possible candidates. Substantial scope exists for increasing the number of overseas directors on the boards of UK companies so that UK plc may take full advantage of global business opportunities.

No relaxation of the present reporting requirements on internal controls and directors' remuneration is proposed. To enhance accountability, the institute is recommending that every director should be subject to re-election at least every three years and it also believes Hampel should consider whether all directors of listed companies should be required to pass a "fit and proper test" similar to that which is already applied within the regulated financial services sector.

Companies should strive for continuous improvement in their corporate governance practices just as they do in all other aspects of their businesses. Best practice has evolved as a result of the introduction of the Cadbury and Greenbury codes. With properly balanced boards, a strong presence of independent directors, reliable disclosure and sound enforcement, best practice will be able to continue to develop.

Anthony Carey is secretary of the corporate governance group of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales

The battleground shifts to education

THERE is nothing the accountancy profession likes better than a good squabble. And there are always plenty of reasons to have one. The latest is to do with education and shows how difficult it is for a profession to sustain both its standards and a spirit of competition within a structure that consists of six very different accounting bodies.

The story concerns the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT), which everyone in the profession agrees is one of the shining successes of co-operation among accountants. It provides a route for people to become accounting technicians, people who are working in accounting but who are not necessarily going to take the higher qualifications. It was set up in 1980 by its five sponsoring bodies, the main UK accounting bodies. It has prospered mightily and grown in reputation. It currently has more than 50,000 students and almost 22,000 members. It has filled a niche.

But its roots were those of a previous accounting squabble between the certified accountants and the chartered bodies. In the 1970s the certified accountants ran an organisation called the Institute of Accounting Staff. The English ICA, along with the management accounting and public sector accounting bodies, set up a competitor called the Association of Technicians in Finance and Accountancy.

The same arguments applied then as they do now — that it was daff to have two accounting bodies doing the job when one would suffice. At the same time, the profession, under a Labour Government, was under pressure to be seen to be trying to unify its operations. Edmund Gibbs, one of the most enlightened presidents the certified accountants have ever had, and Eric Sayers, the English ICA president, got together. The two bodies were folded into a new body, the AAT, and it was sponsored by all the professional bodies except for the Irish, who were supportive but did not join.

Since then, all has been sweetness and light. The AAT has evolved. Members now qualify through the national vocational qualifications scheme, providing a mix of exam and experience-based tests. It fits well within the current national drive to raise the technical qualifications of the workforce.

But in the background something was niggling away. In the 1970s when the Institute of

Accounting Staff was closed the then-secretary of the certified accountants decided to keep it alive as a company, dormant within the accounting body's structure. There was, after all, always the possibility that it might be needed again.

On November 21 last year the certified accountants' council decided in secret that it should set up a competitor qualification to that of the AAT. The secretary informed the AAT's secretary of the decision the day before a press release went out that said: "This development is a logical extension of our core business."

The AAT and the rest of the profession erupted. "Competition is fair," said one senior person at the AAT, "but steam does come out of your ears when it comes from one of your sponsoring bodies."

What ranked most was that the certified accountants' body has, as a sponsor, three of its council members on the AAT's council, including Professor Mike Harvey, immediate past-president. None of those three ever let on that they were about to launch a competing qualification. "It's akin to a corporate boardroom," said a senior member of the AAT. "You can't be on the board of two competing organisations at the same time. It is simply not professional."

And there is also the wrangle over the type of qualification. The AAT's is predominantly experience-based. The certified qualification will be exam-based. And there is an overseas market to be tapped. The certified accountants' body has always been strong overseas. It describes itself as "the world's foremost provider of professional accountancy examinations". There has always been disquiet over this. One senior accountant involved in the original formation of the AAT recalled this week that "all the certified accountants were interested in doing was making money". As John Newman, AAT president, said this week: "In Singapore, the certified accountants have 15,000 students and only 500 qualify each year. You are looking at one in 30 getting through. I find that difficult to support."

But however the issue is resolved, it has set back any efforts to maintain a framework of co-operation which, ironically, was Professor Harvey's theme when, as president, he spoke at last year's annual dinner for the certified accountants.



ROBERT BRUCE

Gloves off for post of president

THIS is the week when council members of the English ICA vanish on a jolly. Sorry, this is the week of the council's annual conference where they get together to discuss strategy, the future, and wider issues. And one of the wider issues is Graham Ward, one-time heavyweight boxer, but these days a senior Price Waterhouse partner and contender for the English ICA

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

presidency. The week of the council conference is also the week when nominations for this year's elections close. It had been felt that Dame Sheila Masters, KPMG partner, should have been given a clear run to become the institute's first woman president in the landmark year of 2000. But Ward's bid could scupper that. And people are confused about his motives. They are

simple. Given the timescale for certain senior posts at Price Waterhouse, Ward needs his presidency out of the way before he can try to scale those heights as well.

Frost warning

GIVEN the current weather it is appropriate that the year begins with a Frost warning. David Frost is president of the

Chartered Institute of Taxation and, like many, he is worried about self-assessment. In particular, he is worried about pressure on local inspectors of taxes to clear up outstanding appeals much sooner than usual. Keeping to his seasonal theme he points out that "the Inland Revenue has begun the process much earlier than usual this year". Blame it on global warming.

Way with words

ACCOUNTANTS, by tradition, are good at numbers but hopeless at words. But not so one Harvey Freeman who became supreme champion when *Countdown*, the words and numbers quiz programme run by Channel 4, staged a champion-of-champions round. Freeman, an audit manager with KPMG, found that crosswords and lugholes were winning words.

ROBERT BRUCE

Philips to loosen ties with costly Grundig

By OLIVER AUGUST

PHILIPS, the troubled Dutch electronics group, is to scale back its ties with Grundig, the German television and stereo maker, in a bid to cut costs.

Grundig's continuing losses have hampered Philips's recovery. Last year, Philips signalled that it would no longer fund the German subsidiary's losses.

Under new arrangements, Philips is to become a "passive shareholder" in Grundig. A sale of its 32 per cent stake had previously been ruled out but is now believed to be a possibility. Philips yesterday said it had started negotiations to unwind its contractual obligations towards the Max Grundig Foundation. Philips

had managed the company under an agreement with the foundation.

Meanwhile, Grundig said it was looking for a new parent company and said it would reveal further details of its survival strategy on Friday.

Pieter van der Wal, the Grundig chairman, said: "Grundig is opening itself to new partners. The Grundig board has introduced the needed steps to use the opportunities presented by the changing market for entertainment electronics together with strong partners."

Philips said its decision to divorce itself from Grundig came in response to the globalisation of the electronics market. It is the group's plan to start using a single brand name where possible, particularly in the sound and vision markets.

In America, Philips has already started to implement this policy, with the introduction of the combined brand name Philips-Magnavox.

The group said: "The next step is to implement this policy in Europe with the result that the Grundig brand name is no longer of vital importance to Philips."

Grundig predicted last month that its net loss in 1996 would be DM250 million but said results would improve in 1997. In 1995 Grundig made an operating loss of about DM330 million.

In October Philips said that Grundig was not for sale and that its restructuring programme for the unit was proceeding as planned. In an earlier move to distance itself from the German consumer electronics maker, Philips confirmed in October it would no longer automatically make good Grundig's losses.

Philips said earlier in the year that its 1995 figures included an extraordinary loss of 300 million guilders after consolidating a 270 million guilders provision by Grundig.



Michael Weston, front, chairman, with executives James Lapage, left, and Basil Taylor

M&W lifts its dividend

By RICHARD FOSTER

M&W, the convenience store operator, achieved a 6 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.82 million in the year to September 29, in spite of a relatively poor summer and increased competition from big supermarkets. Like-for-like sales rose by 2.59 per cent.

The company, of which James Lapage is finance director, is increasing its final dividend to 2.75p a share,

from 2.25p, lifting the total by 14.3 per cent, to 4p. Earnings per share fell slightly, to 10.75p, from 10.89p, reflecting a higher tax charge.

M&W plans to open 15 stores in the current financial year, of which six have already opened. In total, the company had 169 stores trading during the period, eight more than in 1995. As competition from supermarkets grows, facilities in

the stores have been increased to include bakeries, photocopying, and electricity and gas payment units.

Basil Taylor, the chief executive of M&W, said: "The improved standard of recent store acquisitions and the increasing maturity of the greenfield sites opened in 1994/1995 have contributed to the substantial improvement in second-half results."

Americans target Olivetti PC group

By OLIVER AUGUST

OLIVETTI, the Italian electronics group, is being courted by two American investor groups who want to buy its personal computer business.

A deal to rid the group of its PC division, widely seen as a big liability, could be worth around £90 million in cash and debt reduction.

Edward Gottesman, the US financier of the Centenary group, is working on a bid with Gianfranco Rossignolo, president of the PC division. Mr Rossignolo was brought in by Mr Gottesman to emphasise that he would not asset-strip the business.

Mr Rossignolo is said to have visited Olivetti's main PC assembly plant in northern Italy's Piemonte region and is expected to begin talks with the industry ministry in Rome this week. It is rumoured that Mr Rossignolo would become president of the PC division while retaining his position within Zanussi.

Gary Klesch, a corporate debt trader and head of Klesch & Co, which is based in London, is also interested. Olivetti shares have risen by 20 per cent since December in anticipation of a bid.

Roberto Colaninno, the chief executive of Olivetti, is expected to announce a decision on the bid before the end of the month. Olivetti was originally planning to sell the loss-making PC business by last month.

Olivetti's profitability recently deteriorated and analysts said that the question is whether the group can maintain competitiveness.

Fixed costs are said to be too high, as are staffing levels. Clients signing new contracts are eager to be assured that Olivetti will still exist in a few years to fulfil those contracts.

This week, at the request of the Italian stock market regulator, Olivetti revealed its net debt at the end of last November stood at 2.9 trillion lire (£1.1 billion), compared with 3 trillion in October.

Alberto Rolla, an analyst with Pasfin, the Milan broker, said: "Even if you strip out 1800 billion for what they will get from all the restructuring they have declared, you are left with a total debt burden of about £2 trillion."

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

GKN acquires 80% of components maker

GKN is strengthening its car parts business with the purchase of an 80 per cent stake in an Italian propeller shaft manufacturer. Italcordano Universal Giunti, based in Milan, makes propeller shafts and other components for small lorries, tractors and military vehicles. It had sales in 1995 of 64 billion lire (£25 million), half of which were to customers outside Italy.

Italcordano, previously family owned, has been bought by GKN Birfield, which is part of GKN's automotive driveline division. GKN Birfield is itself based in northern Italy, at Brunico. GKN did not disclose its purchase price. GKN's automotive arm has been an important customer of Italcordano for many years. Sarkis Kalyanjan, chief executive of the automotive driveline division, said: "The acquisition represents an excellent opportunity for GKN to enhance sales in an existing core activity and to take advantage of the specialist technology developed by [Italcordano]."

Reuters takes Thai stake

REUTERS, the financial information and trading group, yesterday bought a 49 per cent stake in Bisnews Information Services, a supplier of real-time financial data and news in Thailand, for about £10.6 million. Reuters will take over the management of Bisnews, which it said will substantially increase its market share in one of the fastest growing countries in Asia. Bisnews provides information for the domestic equity, fixed income and corporate markets, and also supplies a Thai-English language database.

Irish jobs cheer

UNEMPLOYMENT in the Republic of Ireland fell in December for the fifth successive month, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Statistics Office. Seasonally adjusted figures for December were down 1,700 on the month to 267,000 and down more than 15,000 on December 1995. The unadjusted figure was up almost 7,000 on the previous month to 270,146. The downward trend in the seasonally adjusted figures has been attributed to more job creation and a widely publicised government clampdown on welfare fraud. Ireland's unemployment rate remains at around 12 per cent.

Bunzl buys US groups

BUNZL, the international paper and plastics group, has acquired Thinking Plastics Inc and its associated company MDX Plastics Inc for up to \$4.3 million. The final price may be adjusted downwards according to the value of net assets acquired on completion. The companies, which are based in California, manufacture a range of proprietary industrial plastic parts particularly for the US tubular furniture and equipment market. Bunzl said their product range complemented those of Alliance and Moss, two existing subsidiaries engaged in the supply of caps and plugs.

Holden Hydroman sold

UNITED INDUSTRIES, the UK engineering group, has sold the business and assets of Holden Hydroman, its loss-making automotive plastics business, to a company controlled by Polytex Kunststofftechnik, a group with automotive plastics interests in Austria and Germany. The consideration of £4.7 million was paid in cash on completion and represents about 90 per cent of the net book value of assets at the end of December. The business lost £588,000 on a turnover of £5.3 million in the half year to the end of June.

Bank in fraud warning

A senior Bank of England director has warned fellow watchdogs that those countries that fail to co-operate in the fight against international fraud and money-laundering face ostracism.

Michael Foot, the Bank's executive director for Supervision and Surveillance, told delegates attending a three-day crime prevention conference in the Cayman Islands that host countries "which do not commit wholeheartedly to putting into effect the spirit of the Supervision of Cross-Border Banking accord, which has been worked out so painstakingly, may quickly find themselves regarded by others as 'the yond the pale'."

Mr Foot said standards of supervision could only be maintained by spending more on resources and staff.

India boom

British investment in India, already worth a cumulative £3 billion, is expected to rise to £5 billion by the year 2000, the Indo-British Partnership, a bilateral business institution, said on the eve of a three-day business conference organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry. John Major is scheduled to attend.

Hunting sale

Hunting, the UK industrial company, has sold Intercontinental Chimie SA, a subsidiary of its oil division, for £24 million. The business holds a 50.1 per cent interest in Société Européenne de Stockage, an oil products storage facility in Strasbourg.

Edge disposal

Edge Properties, the specialist retail warehouse property group, is raising £6.3 million through the sale of a substantially prelet development in Cardiff to Save & Prosper.

Rover accelerates with record sales in America

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

RECORD American purchases helped drive Rover to its best worldwide vehicle sales year since 1983, it was announced yesterday.

The UK company, owned by BMW, the German car manufacturer, sold more than 506,000 vehicles worldwide in 1996 — a 4 per cent rise on the 1995 total, according to preliminary figures. For the first time, Rover's overseas sales exceeded home purchases, with 53 per cent of vehicles being sold abroad in 1996.

US sales reached record levels and were 15 per cent up on 1995, while German sales increased 30 per cent and mainland European purchases overall rose 10 per cent.

Sales in the UK, first announced on Tuesday, fell 7.6 per cent from 240,007 in 1995

to 221,658 in 1996. Tom Purves, Rover's sales and marketing director, said: "Despite the fact that absolute volumes [in the UK] were slightly down as we moved away from high-volume, low-margin business, the quality and mix of these sales has improved."

Rover attributes the increase in new sales to the success of its new 200 and 400 series models, particularly in the European markets, and to the continuing growth worldwide of Land Rover products, with both the Range Rover and Discovery setting new sales records.

On Tuesday the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders said UK car sales rose 4.1 per cent to just over two million in 1996, the highest level since 1989.

Final terms settled on Niceday

WH SMITH has finalised the sale of Niceday, its business stationery arm, to Guilbert, the French stationer, for £131.5 million, some £10.5 million less than the City expected (Fraser Nelson writes).

After eight months of due diligence, WH Smith has agreed to accept only £19.5 million of the £30 million that Guilbert had placed in an escrow account when the sale was first agreed in April. The basic price of £112 million has already been paid.

The two have decided to split the account six months before their original deadline, set to allow time to monitor the progress of Niceday's troubled distribution centre in Andover. Guilbert will take full responsibility for any costs, leaving WH Smith completely free of any liabilities.

WH Smith's shares, which shot to 491p on news of the deal in April, fell 13p yesterday to 466p.

UK firms offered shares in 2000 Olympic Games

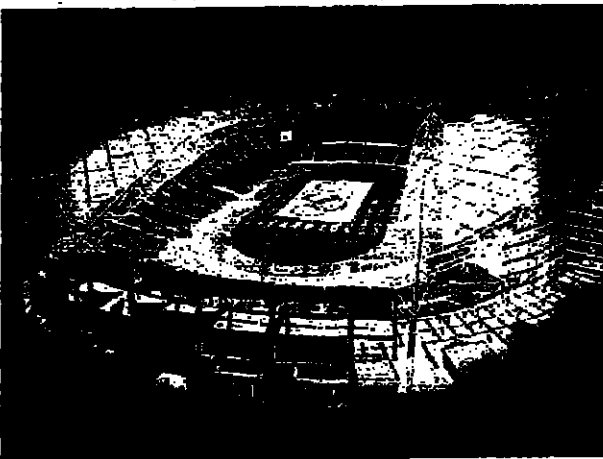
Selling Sydney to corporate Sid

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

BRITISH companies operating in Australia are to be given the opportunity to entertain their clients with the ultimate in corporate hospitality. They have been invited to participate in a unique A\$460 million (about £230 million) public share offer that comes with a guaranteed seat at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games.

Stadium Australia, the consortium building the main stadium, has extended the offer to corporate investors after an unexpectedly disappointing response from the Australian public, to whom it was originally pitched.

For each investment of A\$10,000, a company will receive one of 34,400 Gold packages, entitling it to a guaranteed seat at all Games events held in the Olympic stadium, including the open-



An artist's impression of the A\$615m stadium

ing and closing ceremonies and all track and field events. Every investor will also receive 1,000 units in an investment trust linked to 1,000 shares in Stadium Australia Management, which will be listed on the Australian Stock Exchange this year.

The Gold package will also entitle investors to stadium club membership for more than 30 years from 1999, entry at no extra cost to most sporting events staged after the Olympics, and access to an exclusive members' lounge and dining area.

Chris Chapman, chief executive of Stadium Australia, points out, however, that the Sydney Organising Committee for the Olympic Games will retain the right to veto those companies whose interests would conflict with the interests of the Olympic sponsors, which include McDonald's, Coca-Cola and Kodak.

Along with the more exclusive Platinum packages, which have already been snapped up in spite of the A\$34,000 price, Stadium Australia is hoping that the share offer will raise well over half the estimated A\$615 million cost of building the stadium.

The consortium, which includes Multiplex, the Australian construction group, and the Obayashi Corporation, the Japanese contracting company, says the stadium is on target to be completed by June 1999. The deadline for the share offer has been extended to March this year.

A FREE LUGGAGE TAG WITH EVERY ORDER

The Times executive leather collection

Clockwise from left: Conference folder, cheque book holder, travel wallet, wallet, credit card holder and business card holder. Additional items featured in photograph not included.

The Times offers readers its executive leather collection, and with every order you will receive a FREE luggage tag. All items are crafted from premium quality black soft nappa hide.

Conference Folder: with slot to fit an A4 pad, two business card pockets, two pen loops, black suede lining and tab-closure. 316 x 236 x 18mm.

Travel Wallet: detachable carry strap, seven credit card slots, four full length pockets for currency, passports and tickets, a mesh covered identity card pocket and three sided zip closure. 218 x 124 x 27mm.

Wallet: internal coin pocket with fastener, two banknote pockets, four credit card slots, two concealed pockets and secure press-stud closure. 120 x 95 x 16mm.

Cheque Book Holder: full length pocket and cheque book holder slot, a credit card pocket, and a drivers licence pocket. 212 x 94 x 10mm.

Credit Card Holder: six internal credit card slots and two concealed pockets. 118 x 75 x 8mm.

Business Card Holder: pocket for supply of business cards, two credit card slots, and internal lid pocket. 103 x 88 x 16mm.

Luggage Tag: window for address and gilt buckle on attachment belt. 105 x 65 x 2mm.

EXECUTIVE LEATHER COLLECTION

Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms
Address
Postcode

Item	Quantity	Price	Price
Conference Folder	1	£45.00	
Travel Wallet	1	£40.00	
Wallet	1	£28.00	
Cheque Book Holder	1	£25.00	
Credit Card Holder	1	£18.00	
Business Card Holder	1	£18.00	
Luggage Tag	1	£4.95	
Luggage Tag - Price	1	FREE	

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مكتبة الأم

Shares up after rally fades

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company Name	Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	Telex	Radio	TV	Fax	Internet	Other
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES											
ABC Wine & Spirits	123 Main St	New York	NY	10001	212-555-1234						
Blue Moon Brewing Co.	456 7th Ave	San Francisco	CA	94103	415-555-5678						
California Wine Co.	789 1st St	Los Angeles	CA	90012	213-555-9012						
Chateau de France	321 4th St	San Jose	CA	95128	408-555-3456						
Crown Liquor Co.	654 2nd St	San Diego	CA	92101	619-555-7890						
Distillers of America	987 5th Ave	New York	NY	10003	212-555-2345						
Golden State Wine	101 3rd St	San Francisco	CA	94104	415-555-6789						
Harvest Moon Winery	202 6th St	Los Angeles	CA	90013	213-555-0123						
Italian Wine Imports	303 7th St	San Jose	CA	95129	408-555-4567						
Levi's Wine & Spirits	404 8th St	San Diego	CA	92102	619-555-8901						
Mountain View Winery	505 9th St	New York	NY	10004	212-555-3456						
Northern Wine Co.	606 10th St	San Francisco	CA	94105	415-555-7890						
Old World Vineyards	707 11th St	Los Angeles	CA	90014	213-555-1234						
Pacific Wine & Spirits	808 12th St	San Jose	CA	95130	408-555-5678						
Redwood Wine Co.	909 13th St	San Diego	CA	92103	619-555-9012						
Rocky Mountain Winery	1010 14th St	New York	NY	10005	212-555-2345						
Santa Barbara Wine	1111 15th St	San Francisco	CA	94106	415-555-6789						
Shiraz Wine Imports	1212 16th St	Los Angeles	CA	90015	213-555-0123						
Sierra Nevada Brewing	1313 17th St	San Jose	CA	95131	408-555-4567						
Southwest Wine Co.	1414 18th St	San Diego	CA	92104	619-555-8901						
Top Gun Wine & Spirits	1515 19th St	New York	NY	10006	212-555-3456						
Valley View Winery	1616 20th St	San Francisco	CA	94107	415-555-7890						
Vineyard Vines Co.	1717 21st St	Los Angeles	CA	90016	213-555-1234						
Wine & Spirits of America	1818 22nd St	San Jose	CA	95132	408-555-5678						
World's Best Wine Co.	1919 23rd St	San Diego	CA	92105	619-555-9012						
BANKS											
Bank of America	100 Main St	New York	NY	10001	212-555-1234						
Bank of California	200 2nd St	San Francisco	CA	94103	415-555-5678						
Bank of the West	300 3rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90012	213-555-9012						
Bank of New York	400 4th St	San Jose	CA	95128	408-555-3456						
Bank of the Pacific	500 5th St	San Diego	CA	92101	619-555-7890						
Bank of the South	600 6th St	New York	NY	10003	212-555-2345						
Bank of the Valley	700 7th St	San Francisco	CA	94104	415-555-6789						
Bank of the West	800 8th St	Los Angeles	CA	90013	213-555-0123						
Bank of the World	900 9th St	San Jose	CA	95129	408-555-4567						
Bank of the United States	1000 10th St	San Diego	CA	92102	619-555-8901						
Bank of the Americas	1100 11th St	New York	NY	10004	212-555-3456						
Bank of the Commonwealth	1200 12th St	San Francisco	CA	94105	415-555-7890						
Bank of the Empire	1300 13th St	Los Angeles	CA	90014	213-555-1234						
Bank of the First	1400 14th St	San Jose	CA	95130	408-555-5678						
Bank of the Fourth	1500 15th St	San Diego	CA	92103	619-555-9012						
Bank of the Fifth	1600 16th St	New York	NY	10005	212-555-2345						
Bank of the Sixth	1700 17th St	San Francisco	CA	94106	415-555-6789						
Bank of the Seventh	1800 18th St	Los Angeles	CA	90015	213-555-0123						
Bank of the Eighth	1900 19th St	San Jose	CA	95131	408-555-4567						
Bank of the Ninth	2000 20th St	San Diego	CA	92104	619-555-8901						
Bank of the Tenth	2100 21st St	New York	NY	10006	212-555-3456						
Bank of the Eleventh	2200 22nd St	San Francisco	CA	94107	415-555-7890						
Bank of the Twelfth	2300 23rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90016	213-555-1234						
Bank of the Thirteenth	2400 24th St	San Jose	CA	95132	408-555-5678						
Bank of the Fourteenth	2500 25th St	San Diego	CA	92105	619-555-9012						
Bank of the Fifteenth	2600 26th St	New York	NY	10007	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Sixteenth	2700 27th St	San Francisco	CA	94108	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Seventeenth	2800 28th St	Los Angeles	CA	90017	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Eighteenth	2900 29th St	San Jose	CA	95133	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Nineteenth	3000 30th St	San Diego	CA	92106	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Twentieth	3100 31st St	New York	NY	10008	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Twenty-first	3200 32nd St	San Francisco	CA	94109	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Twenty-second	3300 33rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90018	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Twenty-third	3400 34th St	San Jose	CA	95134	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Twenty-fourth	3500 35th St	San Diego	CA	92107	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Twenty-fifth	3600 36th St	New York	NY	10009	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Twenty-sixth	3700 37th St	San Francisco	CA	94110	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Twenty-seventh	3800 38th St	Los Angeles	CA	90019	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Twenty-eighth	3900 39th St	San Jose	CA	95135	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Twenty-ninth	4000 40th St	San Diego	CA	92108	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Thirtieth	4100 41st St	New York	NY	10010	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Thirty-first	4200 42nd St	San Francisco	CA	94111	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Thirty-second	4300 43rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90020	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Thirty-third	4400 44th St	San Jose	CA	95136	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Thirty-fourth	4500 45th St	San Diego	CA	92109	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Thirty-fifth	4600 46th St	New York	NY	10011	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Thirty-sixth	4700 47th St	San Francisco	CA	94112	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Thirty-seventh	4800 48th St	Los Angeles	CA	90021	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Thirty-eighth	4900 49th St	San Jose	CA	95137	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Thirty-ninth	5000 50th St	San Diego	CA	92110	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Fortieth	5100 51st St	New York	NY	10012	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Forty-first	5200 52nd St	San Francisco	CA	94113	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Forty-second	5300 53rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90022	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Forty-third	5400 54th St	San Jose	CA	95138	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Forty-fourth	5500 55th St	San Diego	CA	92111	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Forty-fifth	5600 56th St	New York	NY	10013	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Forty-sixth	5700 57th St	San Francisco	CA	94114	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Forty-seventh	5800 58th St	Los Angeles	CA	90023	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Forty-eighth	5900 59th St	San Jose	CA	95139	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Forty-ninth	6000 60th St	San Diego	CA	92112	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Fiftieth	6100 61st St	New York	NY	10014	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Fifty-first	6200 62nd St	San Francisco	CA	94115	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Fifty-second	6300 63rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90024	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Fifty-third	6400 64th St	San Jose	CA	95140	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Fifty-fourth	6500 65th St	San Diego	CA	92113	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Fifty-fifth	6600 66th St	New York	NY	10015	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Fifty-sixth	6700 67th St	San Francisco	CA	94116	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Fifty-seventh	6800 68th St	Los Angeles	CA	90025	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Fifty-eighth	6900 69th St	San Jose	CA	95141	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Fifty-ninth	7000 70th St	San Diego	CA	92114	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Sixtieth	7100 71st St	New York	NY	10016	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Sixty-first	7200 72nd St	San Francisco	CA	94117	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Sixty-second	7300 73rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90026	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Sixty-third	7400 74th St	San Jose	CA	95142	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Sixty-fourth	7500 75th St	San Diego	CA	92115	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Sixty-fifth	7600 76th St	New York	NY	10017	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Sixty-sixth	7700 77th St	San Francisco	CA	94118	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Sixty-seventh	7800 78th St	Los Angeles	CA	90027	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Sixty-eighth	7900 79th St	San Jose	CA	95143	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Sixty-ninth	8000 80th St	San Diego	CA	92116	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Seventieth	8100 81st St	New York	NY	10018	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Seventy-first	8200 82nd St	San Francisco	CA	94119	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Seventy-second	8300 83rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90028	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Seventy-third	8400 84th St	San Jose	CA	95144	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Seventy-fourth	8500 85th St	San Diego	CA	92117	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Seventy-fifth	8600 86th St	New York	NY	10019	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Seventy-sixth	8700 87th St	San Francisco	CA	94120	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Seventy-seventh	8800 88th St	Los Angeles	CA	90029	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Seventy-eighth	8900 89th St	San Jose	CA	95145	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Seventy-ninth	9000 90th St	San Diego	CA	92118	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Eightieth	9100 91st St	New York	NY	10020	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Eighty-first	9200 92nd St	San Francisco	CA	94121	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Eighty-second	9300 93rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90030	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Eighty-third	9400 94th St	San Jose	CA	95146	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Eighty-fourth	9500 95th St	San Diego	CA	92119	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Eighty-fifth	9600 96th St	New York	NY	10021	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Eighty-sixth	9700 97th St	San Francisco	CA	94122	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Eighty-seventh	9800 98th St	Los Angeles	CA	90031	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Eighty-eighth	9900 99th St	San Jose	CA	95147	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Eighty-ninth	10000 100th St	San Diego	CA	92120	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Ninetieth	10100 101st St	New York	NY	10022	212-555-4567						
Bank of the Ninety-first	10200 102nd St	San Francisco	CA	94123	415-555-8901						
Bank of the Ninety-second	10300 103rd St	Los Angeles	CA	90032	213-555-2345						
Bank of the Ninety-third	10400 104th St	San Jose	CA	95148	408-555-6789						
Bank of the Ninety-fourth	10500 105th St	San Diego	CA	92121	619-555-0123						
Bank of the Ninety-fifth											

[illegible]

1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	1582	1581	1580	1579	1578	1577	1576	1575	1574	1573	1572	1571	1570	1569	1568	1567	1566	1565	1564	1563	1562	1561	1560	1559	1558	1557	1556	1555	1554	1553	1552	1551	1550	1549	1548	1547	1546	1545	1544	1543	1542	1541	1540	1539	1538	1537	1536	1535	1534	1533	1532	1531	1530	1529	1528	1527	1526	1525	1524	1523	1522	1521	1520	1519	1518	1517	1516	1515	1514	1513	1512	1511	1510	1509	1508	1507	1506	1505	1504	1503	1502	1501	1500	1499	1498	1497	1496	1495	1494	1493	1492	1491	1490	1489	1488	1487	1486	1485	1484	1483	1482	1481	1480	1479	1478	1477	1476	1475	1474	1473	1472	1471	1470	1469	1468	1467	1466	1465	1464	1463	1462	1461	1460	1459	1458	1457	1456	1455	1454	1453	1452	1451	1450	1449	1448	1447	1446	1445	1444	1443	1442	1441	1440	1439	1438	1437	1436	1435	1434	1433	1432	1431	1430	1429	1428	1427	1426	1425	1424	1423	1422	1421	1420	1419	1418	1417	1416	1415	1414	1413	1412	1411	1410	1409	1408	1407	1406	1405	1404	1403	1402	1401	1400	1399	1398	1397	1396	1395	1394	1393	1392	1391	1390	1389	1388	1387	1386	1385	1384	1383	1382	1381	1380	1379	1378	1377	1376	1375	1374	1373	1372	1371	1370	1369	1368	1367	1366	1365	1364	1363	1362	1361	1360	1359	1358	1357	1356	1355	1354	1353	1352	1351	1350	1349	1348	1347	1346	1345	1344	1343	1342	1341	1340	1339	1338	1337	1336	1335	1334	1333	1332	1331	1330	1329	1328	1327	1326	1325	1324	1323	1322	1321	1320	1319	1318	1317	1316	1315	1314	1313	1312	1311	1310	1309	1308	1307	1306	1305	1304	1303	1302	1301	1300	1299	1298	1297	1296	1295	1294	1293	1292	1291	1290	1289	1288	1287	1286	1285	1284	1283	1282	1281	1280	1279	1278	1277	1276	1275	1274	1273	1272	1271	1270	1269	1268	1267	1266	1265	1264	1263	1262	1261	1260	1259	1258	1257	1256	1255	1254	1253	1252	1251	1250	1249	1248	1247	1246	1245	1244	1243	1242	1241	1240	1239	1238	1237	1236	1235	1234	1233	1232	1231	1230	1229	1228	1227	1226	1225	1224	1223	1222	1221	1220	1219	1218	1217	1216	1215	1214	1213	1212	1211	1210	1209	1208	1207	1206	1205	1204	1203	1202	1201	1200	1199	1198	1197	1196	1195	1194	1193	1192	1191	1190	1189	1188	1187	1186	1185	1184	1183	1182	1181	1180	1179	1178	1177	1176	1175	1174	1173	1172	1171	1170	1169	1168	1167	1166	1165	1164	1163	1162	1161	1160	1159	1158	1157	1156	1155	1154	1153	1152	1151	1150	1149	1148	1147	1146	1145	1144	1143	1142	1141	1140	1139	1138	1137	1136	1135	1134	1133	1132	1131	1130	1129	1128	1127	1126	1125	1124	1123	1122	1121	1120	1119	1118	1117	1116	1115	1114	1113	1112	1111	1110	1109	1108	1107	1106	1105	1104	1103	1102	1101	1100	1099	1098	1097	1096	1095	1094	1093	1092	1091	1090	1089	1088	1087	1086	1085	1084	1083	1082	1081	1080	1079	1078	1077	1076	1075	1074	1073	1072	1071	1070	1069	1068	1067	1066	1065	1064	1063	1062	1061	1060	1059	1058	1057	1056	1055	1054	1053	1052	1051	1050	1049	1048	1047	1046	1045	1044	1043	1042	1041	1040	1039	1038	1037	1036	1035	1034	1033	1032	1031	1030	1029	1028	1027	1026	1025	1024	1023	1022	1021	1020	1019	1018	1017	1016	1015	1014	1013	1012	1011	1010	1009	1008	1007	1006	1005	1004	1003	1002	1001	1000	999	998	997	996	995	994	993	992	991	990	989	988	987	986	985	984	983	982	981	980	979	978	977	976	975	974	973	972	971	970	969	968	967	966	965	964	963	962	961	960	959	958	957	956	955	954	953	952	951	950	949	948	947	946	945	944	943	942	941	940	939	938	937	936	935	934	933	932	931	930	929	928	927	926	925	924	923	922	921	920	919	918	917	916	915	914	913	912	911	910	909	908	907	906	905	904	903	902	901	900	899	898	897	896	895	894	893	892	891	890	889	888	887	886	885	884	883	882	881	880	879	878	877	876	875	874	873	872	871	870	869	868	867	866	865	864	863	862	861	860	859	858	857	856	855	854	853	852	851	850	849	848	847	846	845	844	843	842	841	840	839	838	837	836	835	834	833	832	831	830	829	828	827	826	825	824	823	822	821	820	819	818	817	816	815	814	813	812	811	810	809	808	807	806	805	804	803	802	801	800	799	798	797	796	795	794	793	792	791	790	789	788	787	786	785	784	783	782	781	780	779	778	777	776	775	774	773	772	771	770	769	768	767	766	765	764	763	762	761	760	759	758	757	756	755	754	753	752	751	750	749	748	747	746	745	744	743	742	741	740	739	738	737	736	735	734	733	732	731	730	729	728	727	726	725	724	723	722	721	720	719	718	717	716	715	714	713	712	711	710	709	708	707	706	705	704	703	702	701	700	699	698	697	696	695	694	693	692	691	690	689	688	687	686	685	684	683	682	681	680	679	678	677	676	675	674	673	672	671	670	669	668	667	666	665	664	663	662	661	660	659	658	657	656	655	654	653	652	651	650	649	648	647	646	645	644	643	642	641	640	639	638	637	636	635	634	633	632	631	630	629	628	627	626	625	624	623	622	621	620	619	618	617	616	615	614	613	612	611	610	609	608	607	606	605	604	603	602	601	600	599	598	597	596	595	594	593	592	591	590	589	588	587	586	585	584	583	582	581	580	579	578	577	576	575	574	573	572	571	570	5
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NO.		FIRM		PRICE		VOLUME	
				BID		ASK	
311	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
312	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
313	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
314	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
315	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
316	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
317	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
318	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
319	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
320	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
321	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
322	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
323	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
324	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
325	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
326	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
327	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
328	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
329	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
330	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
331	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
332	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
333	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
334	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
335	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
336	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
337	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
338	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
339	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
340	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
341	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
342	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
343	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
344	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
345	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
346	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
347	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
348	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
349	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
350	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
351	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
352	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
353	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
354	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
355	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
356	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
357	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
358	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
359	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
360	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
361	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
362	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
363	289	Marine	100	25.00	25.00	40	127
364	289	Marine	100	25.00	2		

1992-97		1998-99		1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05		2005-06		2006-07		2007-08		2008-09		2009-10		2010-11		2011-12		2012-13		2013-14		2014-15		2015-16		2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2025-26		2026-27		2027-28		2028-29		2029-30		2030-31		2031-32		2032-33		2033-34		2034-35		2035-36		2036-37		2037-38		2038-39		2039-40		2040-41		2041-42		2042-43		2043-44		2044-45		2045-46		2046-47		2047-48		2048-49		2049-50		2050-51		2051-52		2052-53		2053-54		2054-55		2055-56		2056-57		2057-58		2058-59		2059-60		2060-61		2061-62		2062-63		2063-64		2064-65		2065-66		2066-67		2067-68		2068-69		2069-70		2070-71		2071-72		2072-73		2073-74		2074-75		2075-76		2076-77		2077-78		2078-79		2079-80		2080-81		2081-82		2082-83		2083-84		2084-85		2085-86		2086-87		2087-88		2088-89		2089-90		2090-91		2091-92		2092-93		2093-94		2094-95		2095-96		2096-97		2097-98		2098-99		2099-00		2100-01		2101-02		2102-03		2103-04		2104-05		2105-06		2106-07		2107-08		2108-09		2109-10		2110-11		2111-12		2112-13		2113-14		2114-15		2115-16		2116-17		2117-18		2118-19		2119-20		2120-21		2121-22		2122-23		2123-24		2124-25		2125-26		2126-27		2127-28		2128-29		2129-30		2130-31		2131-32		2132-33		2133-34		2134-35		2135-36		2136-37		2137-38		2138-39		2139-40		2140-41		2141-42		2142-43		2143-44		2144-45		2145-46		2146-47		2147-48		2148-49		2149-50		2150-51		2151-52		2152-53		2153-54		2154-55		2155-56		2156-57		2157-58		2158-59		2159-60		2160-61		2161-62		2162-63		2163-64		2164-65		2165-66		2166-67		2167-68		2168-69		2169-70		2170-71		2171-72		2172-73		2173-74		2174-75		2175-76		2176-77		2177-78		2178-79		2179-80		2180-81		2181-82		2182-83		2183-84		2184-85		2185-86		2186-87		2187-88		2188-89		2189-90		2190-91		2191-92		2192-93		2193-94		2194-95		2195-96		2196-97		2197-98		2198-99		2199-00		2200-01		2201-02		2202-03		2203-04		2204-05		2205-06		2206-07		2207-08		2208-09		2209-10		2210-11		2211-12		2212-13		2213-14		2214-15		2215-16		2216-17		2217-18		2218-19		2219-20		2220-21		2221-22		2222-23		2223-24		2224-25		2225-26		2226-27		2227-28		2228-29		2229-30		2230-31		2231-32		2232-33		2233-34		2234-35		2235-36		2236-37		2237-38		2238-39		2239-40		2240-41		2241-42		2242-43		2243-44		2244-45		2245-46		2246-47		2247-48		2248-49		2249-50		2250-51		2251-52	
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High																																																																																																			

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BEALE  INMAN

January Sale

*100's of the World's
Finest Designer Suits
Now Half Price*

131 NEW BOND STREET, W1
81 GRACECHURCH STREET, EC3

FROM TODAY

286	101	287	102	288	103	289	104	290	105	291	106	292	107	293	108	294	109	295	110	296	111	297	112	298	113	299	114	300	115	301	116	302	117	303	118	304	119	305	120	306	121	307	122	308	123	309	124	310	125	311	126	312	127	313	128	314	129	315	130	316	131	317	132	318	133	319	134	320	135	321	136	322	137	323	138	324	139	325	140	326	141	327	142	328	143	329	144	330	145	331	146	332	147	333	148	334	149	335	150	336	151	337	152	338	153	339	154	340	155	341	156	342	157	343	158	344	159	345	160	346	161	347	162	348	163	349	164	350	165	351	166	352	167	353	168	354	169	355	170	356	171	357	172	358	173	359	174	360	175	361	176	362	177	363	178	364	179	365	180	366	181	367	182	368	183	369	184	370	185	371	186	372	187	373	188	374	189	375	190	376	191	377	192	378	193	379	194	380	195	381	196	382	197	383	198	384	199	385	100	386	101	387	102	388	103	389	104	390	105	391	106	392	107	393	108	394	109	395	110	396	111	397	112	398	113	399	114	400	115	401	116	402	117	403	118	404	119	405	120	406	121	407	122	408	123	409	124	410	125	411	126	412	127	413	128	414	129	415	130	416	131	417	132	418	133	419	134	420	135	421	136	422	137	423	138	424	139	425	140	426	141	427	142	428	143	429	144	430	145	431	146	432	147	433	148	434	149	435	150	436	151	437	152	438	153	439	154	440	155	441	156	442	157	443	158	444	159	445	160	446	161	447	162	448	163	449	164	450	165	451	166	452	167	453	168	454	169	455	170	456	171	457	172	458	173	459	174	460	175	461	176	462	177	463	178	464	179	465	180	466	181	467	182	468	183	469	184	470	185	471	186	472	187	473	188	474	189	475	190	476	191	477	192	478	193	479	194	480	195	481	196	482	197	483	198	484	199	485	100	486	101	487	102	488	103	489	104	490	105	491	106	492	107	493	108	494	109	495	110	496	111	497	112	498	113	499	114	500	115	501	116	502	117	503	118	504	119	505	120	506	121	507	122	508	123	509	124	510	125	511	126	512	127	513	128	514	129	515	130	516	131	517	132	518	133	519	134	520	135	521	136	522	137	523	138	524	139	525	140	526	141	527	142	528	143	529	144	530	145	531	146	532	147	533	148	534	149	535	150	536	151	537	152	538	153	539	154	540	155	54
286	101	287	102	288	103	289	104	290	105	291	106	292	107	293	108	294	109	295	110	296	111	297	112	298	113	299	114	300	115	301	116	302	117	303	118	304	119	305	120	306	121	307	122	308	123	309	124	310	125	311	126	312	127	313	128	314	129	315	130	316	131	317	132	318	133	319	134	320	135	321	136	322	137	323	138	324	139	325	140	326	141	327	142	328	143	329	144	330	145	331	146	332	147	333	148	334	149	335	150	336	151	337	152	338	153	339	154	340	155	341	156	342	157	343	158	344	159	345	160	346	161	347	162	348	163	349	164	350	165	351	166	352	167	353	168	354	169	355	170	356	171	357	172	358	173	359	174	360	175	361	176	362	177	363	178	364	179	365	180	366	181	367	182	368	183	369	184	370	185	371	186	372	187	373	188	374	189	375	190	376	191	377	192	378	193	379	194	380	195	381	196	382	197	383	198	384	199	385	100	386	101	387	102	388	103	389	104	390	105	391	106	392	107	393	108	394	109	395	110	396	111	397	112	398	113	399	114	400	115	401	116	402	117	403	118	404	119	405	120	406	121	407	122	408	123	409	124	410	125	411	126	412	127	413	128	414	129	415	130	416	131	417	132	418	133	419	134	420	135	421	136	422	137	423	138	424	139	425	140	426	141	427	142	428	143	429	144	430	145	431	146	432	147	433	148	434	149	435	150	436	151	437	152	438	153	439	154	440	155	441	156	442	157	443	158	444	159	445	160	446	161	447	162	448	163	449	164	450	165	451	166	452	167	453	168	454	169	455	170	456	171	457	172	458	173	459	174	460	175	461	176	462	177	463	178	464	179	465	180	466	181	467	182	468	183	469	184	470	185	471	186	472	187	473	188	474	189	475	190	476	191	477	192	478	193	479	194	480	195	481	196	482	197	483	198	484	199	485	100	486	101	487	102	488	103	489	104	490	105	491	106	492	107	493	108	494	109	495	110	496	111	497	112	498	113	499	114	500	115	501	116	502	117	503	118	504	119	505	120	506	121	507	122	508	123	509	124	510	125	511	126	512	127	513	128	514	129	515	130	516	131	517	132	518	133	519	134	520	135	521	136	522	137	523	138	524	139	525	140	526	141	527	142	528	143	529	144	530	145	531	146	532	147	533	148	534	149	535	150	536	151	537	152	538	153	539	154	540	155	54
286	101	287	102	288	103	289	104	290	105	291	106	292	107	293	108	294	109	295	110	296	111	297	112	298	113	299	114	300	115	301	116	302	117	303	118	304	119	305	120	306	121	307	122	308	123	309	124	310	125	311	126	312	127	313	128	314	129	315	130	316	131	317	132	318	133	319	134	320	135	321	136	322	137	323	138	324	139	325	140	326	141	327	142	328	143	329	144	330	145	331	146	332	147	333	148	334	149	335	150	336	151	337	152	338	153	339	154	340	155	341	156	342	157	343	158	344	159	345	160	346	161	347	162	348	163	349	164	350	165	351	166	352	167	353	168	354	169	355	170	356	171	357	172	358	173	359	174	360	175	361	176	362	177	363	178	364	179	365	180	366	181	367	182	368	183	369	184	370	185	371	186	372	187	373	188	374	189	375	190	376	191	377	192	378	193	379	194	380	195	381	196	382	197	383	198	384	199	385	100	386	101	387	102	388	103	389	104	390	105	391	106	392	107	393	108	394	109	395	110	396	111	397	112	398	113	399	114	400	115	401	116	402	117	403	118	404	119	405	120	406	121	407	122	408	123	409	124	410	125	411	126	412	127	413	128	414	129	415	130	416	131	417	132	418	133	419	134	420	135	421	136	422	137	423	138	424	139	425	140	426	141	427	142	428	143	429	144	430	145	431	146	432	147	433	148	434	149	435	150	436	151	437	152	438	153	439	154	440	155	441	156	442	157	443	158	444	159	445	160	446	161	447	162	448	163	449	164	450	165	451	166	452	167	453	168	454	169	455	170	456	171	457	172	458	173	459	174	460	175	461	176	462	177	463	178	464	179	465	180	466	181	467	182	468	183	469	184	470	185	471	186	472	187	473	188	474	189	475	190	476	191	477	192	478	193	479	194	480	195	481	196	482	197	483	198	484	199	485	100	486	101	487	102	488	103	489	104	490	105	491	106	492	107	493	108	494	109	495	110	496	111	497	112	498	113	499	114	500	115	501	116	502	117	503	118	504	119	505	120	506	121	507	122	508	123	509	124	510	125	511	126	512	127	513	128	514	129	515	130	516	131	517	132	518	133	519	134	520	135	521	136	522	137	523	138	524	139	525	140	526	141	527	142	528	143	529	144	530	145	531	146	532	147	533	148	534	149	535	150	536	151	537	152	538	153	539	154	540	155	54
286	101	287	102	288	103	289	104	290	105	291	106	292	1																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	

UNITED FUNDS									
2000/01		Stock	Percent	y-o-y	Net Adj. \$	Gain and Loss		Div.	Ch.
High	Low					High	Low		
BONDS (under 5 years)									
101%	100%	Trust 1997	100%	-	6.58	6.62			
102%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		13.92	6.62			
103%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
104%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
114%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
115%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
116%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
117%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
118%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
119%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
120%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
121%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
122%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
123%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
124%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
125%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
126%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
127%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
128%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
129%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
130%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
131%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
132%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
133%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
134%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
135%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
136%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
137%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
138%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
139%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
140%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
141%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
142%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
143%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
144%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
145%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
146%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
147%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
148%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
149%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
150%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
151%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
152%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
153%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
154%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
155%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
156%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
157%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
158%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
159%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
160%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
161%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
162%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
163%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
164%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
165%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
166%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
167%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
168%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
169%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
170%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
171%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
172%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
173%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
174%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
175%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
176%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
177%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
178%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
179%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
180%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
181%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
182%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
183%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
184%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
185%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
186%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
187%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
188%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
189%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
190%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
191%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
192%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
193%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
194%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
195%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
196%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
197%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
198%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
199%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
200%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
LONGS (over 15 years)									
101%	100%	Trust 1997	100%	-	6.58	6.62			
102%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		13.92	6.62			
103%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
104%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
114%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
115%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
116%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
117%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
118%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
119%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
120%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
121%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
122%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
123%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
124%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
125%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
126%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
127%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
128%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
129%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
130%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
131%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
132%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
133%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
134%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
135%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
136%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
137%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
138%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
139%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
140%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
141%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
142%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
143%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
144%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
145%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
146%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
147%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
148%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
149%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
150%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
151%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
152%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
153%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
154%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
155%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
156%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
157%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
158%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
159%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
160%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
161%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
162%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
163%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
164%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
165%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
166%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
167%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
168%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
169%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
170%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
171%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
172%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14.02	6.14			
173%	100%	Trust 1994-1997	100%		14				

[illegible]

Year	Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
1970-1971	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1971-1972	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1972-1973	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1973-1974	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1974-1975	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1975-1976	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1976-1977	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1977-1978	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1978-1979	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1979-1980	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1980-1981	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1981-1982	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1982-1983	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1983-1984	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1984-1985	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1985-1986	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1986-1987	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1987-1988	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1988-1989	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1989-1990	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1990-1991	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1991-1992	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1992-1993	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1993-1994	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1994-1995	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1995-1996	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1996-1997	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1997-1998	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1998-1999	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
1999-2000	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2000-2001	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2001-2002	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2002-2003	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2003-2004	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2004-2005	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2005-2006	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2006-2007	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2007-2008	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2008-2009	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2009-2010	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2010-2011	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2011-2012	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2012-2013	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2013-2014	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2014-2015	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2015-2016	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2016-2017	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2017-2018	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2018-2019	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2019-2020	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2020-2021	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2021-2022	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2022-2023	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2023-2024	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2024-2025	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2025-2026	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2026-2027	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2027-2028	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2028-2029	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2029-2030	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2030-2031	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2031-2032	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2032-2033	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2033-2034	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2034-2035	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2035-2036	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2036-2037	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2037-2038	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2038-2039	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2039-2040	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2040-2041	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2041-2042	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2042-2043	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2043-2044	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2044-2045	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2045-2046	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2046-2047	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2047-2048	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2048-2049	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2049-2050	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2050-2051	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2051-2052	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2052-2053	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2053-2054	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2054-2055	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2055-2056	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2056-2057	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2057-2058	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2058-2059	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2059-2060	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2060-2061	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2061-2062	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2062-2063	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2063-2064	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2064-2065	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2065-2066	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2066-2067	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2067-2068	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2068-2069	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2069-2070	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2070-2071	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2071-2072	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2072-2073	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2073-2074	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2074-2075	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2075-2076	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2076-2077	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2077-2078	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2078-2079	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2079-2080	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2080-2081	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2081-2082	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2082-2083	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2083-2084	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2084-2085	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2085-2086	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2086-2087	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2087-2088	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2088-2089	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2089-2090	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2090-2091	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2091-2092	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2092-2093	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2093-2094	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2094-2095	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2095-2096	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2096-2097	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2097-2098	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2098-2099	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2099-2100	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2100-2101	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2101-2102	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2102-2103	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2103-2104	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2104-2105	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2105-2106	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2106-2107	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2107-2108	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2108-2109	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2109-2110	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2110-2111	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2111-2112	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2112-2113	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2113-2114	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2114-2115	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2115-2116	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2116-2117	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2117-2118	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2118-2119	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2119-2120	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2120-2121	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2121-2122	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2122-2123	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2123-2124	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2124-2125	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2125-2126	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2126-2127	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2127-2128	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2128-2129	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2129-2130	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2130-2131	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2131-2132	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2132-2133	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2133-2134	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2134-2135	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2135-2136	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2136-2137	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2137-2138	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2138-2139	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2139-2140	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2140-2141	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2141-2142	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2142-2143	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2143-2144	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2144-2145	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2145-2146	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2146-2147	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2147-2148	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2148-2149	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2149-2150	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2150-2151	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2151-2152	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2152-2153	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2153-2154	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2154-2155	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2155-2156	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2156-2157	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2157-2158	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2158-2159	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2159-2160	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2160-2161	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2161-2162	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2162-2163	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2163-2164	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2164-2165	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2165-2166	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2166-2167	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2167-2168	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2168-2169	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2169-2170	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2170-2171	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2171-2172	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2172-2173	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2173-2174	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2174-2175	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2175-2176	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2176-2177	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2177-2178	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2178-2179	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2179-2180	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2180-2181	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2181-2182	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2182-2183	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2183-2184	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2184-2185	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2185-2186	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2186-2187	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2187-2188	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2188-2189	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2189-2190	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2190-2191	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2191-2192	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2192-2193	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2193-2194	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2194-2195	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2195-2196	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2196-2197	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2197-2198	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%	11.0%
2198-2199	11.0%	11.0%		

97	Hyattsville	50	32	50
111	11200 Sunset Crest	100	18	12
114	84 Bay	100	17	12
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97	Hyattsville	50	32	50
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RETAILERS, GENERAL		201	
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200	Alcon	185	5

59	4% FTX	6%	
60	16% Portland	17%	3.8 82.1
61	16% Portland	29%	4.2 81.1
62	16% Portland	27%	4.2 81.1
63	14% Boulders	11%	10.8 12.7
64	14% Boulders	6%	8.7 6.4
65	34% SEI	45%	67.9
66	34% Shermard Co	46%	91.6 65.5
67	34% Shermard Co	41%	83.2 61.1
68	34% Cedar	41%	97.7 10.8
69	34% Cedar	41%	97.7 10.8
70	34% Cedar	41%	97.7 10.8
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95	34% Cedar	41%	97.7 10.8
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97	34% Cedar	41%	97.7 10.8
98	34% Cedar	41%	97.7 10.8
99	34% Cedar	41%	97.7 10.8
100	34% Cedar	41%	97.7 10.8

[illegible]



FILM 1
Streisand stars, directs and dominates the comedy romance of *The Mirror Has Two Faces*



FILM 2
Powerful and controversial, *Some Mother's Son* depicts the grief surrounding the Maze hunger strike

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3
Veteran director Michelangelo Antonioni returns with four amorous tales stitched into *Beyond the Clouds*



FILM 4
... while 1950s Sicily is the setting for Giuseppe Tornatore's new, and disappointing, *The Star Maker*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees a great Hollywood ego spin out of control in *The Mirror Has Two Faces*

Streisand loses her vanity case

She can pose for *The Mirror Has Two Faces*. You will find her name there seven times. She stars. She directs. She co-produces. She composed the love theme. She also supplies her ego and vanity, although those contributions are not listed. They do not need to be: everything about Barbra Streisand's new film, an old-fashioned comedy-drama about two university teachers experimenting with a sedentary marriage, trumpets them to the skies.

For those who prefer their Streisand singing, not acting, frustrations lie in wait. Several scenes seem sculpted to lead up to a number, only to lead to silence; pervasively, she then lets rip during the closing credits, while the audience is filling out. But for those content to watch Streisand flaunt her obsessions and swamp the screen like an old-time Hollywood diva, fun of an absurd kind is guaranteed.

Consider the plot, embellished by scriptwriter Richard LaGravenese from a forgotten French film of 1938. In *Le Miroir à deux faces*, Michèle Morgan plays a plain-looking girl in a loveless marriage. A face-lift seems the perfect reviver, but it brings in its wake family break-up and murder. Nobody gets killed in Streisand's version: they are too busy dancing attendance to her character Rose, a literature professor at Columbia University who gives great lectures on courtly love but is too much the ugly duckling to find love herself. Enter, conveniently, Jeff Bridges's Gregory Larkin, maths professor at the same institution, a stud anxious to be put out to pasture, who places a dating ad ending with the sentence "Physical appearance not important".

They connect. They get married. But Bridges's lack of interest in physical love sparks Rose's determination to make herself over. She works out, licks her hair, smears on the lipstick, and shows off her legs in a clingy black dress. Here Streisand gets herself into difficulties. Since she never allowed Rose the ugly duckling to look ugly to begin with, the dramatic developments caused by Rose the swan begin to look hollow.

As director, Streisand leaves nothing to chance, prommeling home both the comedy and romance as though her audience were blind and deaf. This was a troubled production, during which Streisand replaced her director of photography, her film editor, even Dudley Moore (originally cast in George Segal's role as Bridges's university confidant). Those who stayed the course survived with some honour, although only Bridges's role has much to offer beyond caricature.

Others involved include Lauren Bacall, stylishly spitting out sour lines; Pierce

Brosnan, cooing James-Bondish charm; and Mimi Rogers. But they know and we know — and she certainly knows — that everything shrivels before the divine, the preposterous, Barbra.

Some Mother's Son begins with another strong woman, Margaret Thatcher, speaking on the No 10 doorstep after her election in 1979. She quotes St Francis of Assisi about reconciliation and healing wounds. This is irony applied as a hammer blow, for the film takes pleasure in showing how the intransigence of the British led to the 1981 hunger strike at the Maze Prison.

But polemical confrontation is not the main aim of this powerful drama. By Terry George and Jim Sheridan, co-writers of *In the Name of the*

The Mirror Has Two Faces

Odeon Leicester Square PG, 126 mins
Barbra Streisand's vanity show

Some Mother's Son

Curzon West End 15, 112 mins
Strong human drama

Beyond the Clouds

Lumiere, 18, 113 mins
Antonioni returns

Robinson in Space

ICA Cinema PG, 83 mins
Diverging film essay from Patrick Keiller

The Star Maker

ABC Shaftesbury Ave 18, 105 mins
Cinema not so paradiso

Father. Its focus is the family, and the effect of imprisonment on those left behind, whatever their persuasion. Helen Mirren's Kathleen Quigley is a pacifist, a widowed school teacher in a quiet fishing village whose life is changed when her son is arrested after a shoot-out with the British Army. She condemns IRA tactics and all violence; that point made, the film then proceeds to champion the hunger strikers, led by Bobby Sands, and chart the growing friendship with a mother of fierce Republican sympathies, played by Fionnula Flanagan. The film is at its edgy best when these two mothers, played by two powerful actresses, get together to wrangle or bond. Flanagan refuses to sit below the Queen's picture in a pub. "She'd sour the drink," she says. But both need the help of British forces to free their car from a soggy beach. The light comedy of that scene is an exception; Terry George, who directs,



"For those content to watch Streisand flaunt her obsessions and swamp the screen like an old-time Hollywood diva, fun of an absurd kind is guaranteed"

generally prefers the full-frontal assault.

He is led at times into easy caricature. You could suggest government duplicity without stocking its ranks with beady-eyed yuppies in power shirts. As for the prisoners, led by John Lynch's Sands, they are presented as martyrs, their long beards suggesting Robinson Crusoe at least, at most Jesus Christ. But this is ultimately a story about mothers, not sons, with a strong enough drive and universal appeal to lift it above the political or sectarian divide.

Beyond the Clouds is art cinema rampant, complete with elegant images framed to a nicely and a script heavy with pregnant thoughts. The octogenarian Michelangelo Antonioni, back at work after a debilitating stroke, casts his eye on landscapes and buildings, on vast skies and little human gestures, as he used to in the golden days of *L'Avventura* and *L'Edisse*.

Or almost as he used to: for what we miss from this episodic film made in 1995 is the sustained invention and conceptual rigour that made Antonioni's best films so remarkable. The four tales of love and desire, drawn from the director's own collection *That Bowling Green on the Tiber*, veer towards the footling; and the surrounding framework, directed separate-

ly by Wim Wenders, is notable mostly for making John Malkovich look ridiculous as Antonioni's surrogate, a director seeking characters and situations.

Yet even when the film becomes risible, we still keep watching, wondering what object the camera will frame next, or what echoes from past Antonioni meditations on modern life and alienation will wait into sight. There is also an extraordinary cast to keep us company, ranging from Fanny Ardant and Peter Weller to the late Marcello Mastroianni, seen copying a Cézanne painting under Jeanne Moreau's beady eye.

Robinson in Space offers more opportunities for intellectual games and startling sights. But instead of Antonioni's empty Italian beaches, the camera focuses on British factories, golf clubs, shopping malls, even the HMV store at Reading. The man behind the lens is Patrick Keiller, who undertook a similar survey of the capital's wonders in his dazzlingly quirky *London*. This sequel contains more humour and more politics: through the musings of the unseen, unnamed narrator and his equally unseen friend Robinson, we experience an England adrift from its past, destabilised by economic upheaval.

As Keiller's camera celebrates pylons, bizarre road signs, and nuclear sites, Paul Scofield's wry voice entertains us with choice facts about architects, Toyota, MPs educated at Eton, or Britain's pre-eminence in the fetish wear trade. To be sure, the dry intellectual game is not everyone's cup of tea, and the game does not quite deserve even 83 minutes. But *Robinson* still advances Keiller's claim to be

the liveliest spark of the British independent scene, and the witest film essayist since the early Peter Greenaway.

Audiences who fell for Giuseppe Tornatore's *Cinema Paradiso* may have their loyalties tested by *The Star Maker*, the director's latest love letter to the world of cinema and Sicilian life. The images are pretty to look at in a postcard kind of way; but the story about a shyster from Rome in the early 1950s who dupes villagers out of their money by posing as a talent scout from a film studio is too drawn out, and generates too many bogus emotions. The non-professional cast brings a fresh breeze here and there, while Sergio Castellitto works hard to make the lead character interesting; but he never makes him likeable.

Russians bared

Ask a handful of people for their perception of Russia as gleaned from the daily news and they will probably talk about a Third World shambles led by a man who could not pass a breath test after breakfast. Yet an informed view of the place is surely essential to an informed view of the world, which makes *Russia, Five Years On* (Radio 3, Mondays) one of the most welcome new radio series in ages.

The series is presented by Geoffrey Hosking, a professor of Russian history. In the first programme (of five) he talked with Ralph Land, chairman of

RADIO

the Russo-British chamber of commerce. Land describes himself as a "realistic optimist" about Russia, and believes that Russia could be the key growth economy of the new century.

This view is startling to those used to television news items about the Russian mafia and unpaid battleship commanders hanging out their washing on the bridge deck. The country of stumbling Boris is actually the richest in raw materials (oil, gold, diamonds) on the planet and it runs a huge export surplus, needed to pay for food and other imports. Not that it should be importing much food, but of course Russian agriculture is as big a joke as British public transport. Land made the point that the notion of privatising collectives and turning them into small family units is one thing, but what about all the farm machinery designed for huge acreages?

Communism was a duff philosophy with at least one redeeming feature: it produced a highly educated workforce. Much of that army is now unemployed. But there are 300 British companies with offices in Moscow, so something is happening.

PETER BARNARD

From GIUSEPPE TORNATORE the Academy Award-Winning Director of "CINEMA PARADISO"

"moving, sexy, beautiful."
HARRISON & QUINN
"great moments of laughter, poetry and pathos."
PREMIERE

SPECIAL GRAND JURY PRIZE
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THE STAR MAKER

MARIO & VITTORIO GECCHI BOGGI SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT N.Y. GIUSEPPE TORNATORE SERGIO CASTELLITO "THE STAR MAKER"
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STARTS TOMORROW
AT SELECTED CINEMAS
ACROSS THE COUNTRY

"IT IS A PLEASURE TO START THE YEAR BY GREETING A MOVIE THAT IS AS GOOD AS ANYTHING WE'RE LIKELY TO SEE IN THE COURSE OF 1997"

The Observer

"HUGELY UPLIFTING... A SYMPHONY TO LIFE"
The Daily Mail



"EXCELLENT... THE FIRST ESSENTIAL FILM OF THE NEW YEAR"
The Times

Shine

Nominated for 5 Golden Globes
Best Film
Best Actor
Best Director
Best Screenplay
Best Original Score

WINNER of 9
Australian Film Institute Awards
including
Best Picture
Best Director
Best Actor
and Best Original Screenplay

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CASTING BY JANE WILSON
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NEW VIDE
Ringside see
Robert De Niro
play the hero
in the movie
"The Usual
Suspects" at
Karing Hall

VOCAL

THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 9 1997

THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 9 1997

THEATRE 1

Martin McDonagh enhances his growing reputation with his fine new play, *The Cripple of Inishmaan*.

THEATRE 2

Webster's drama of horror and revenge, *The White Devil*, comes to the Barbican Pit.

THE TIMES ARTS

OFFER

The best of John Godber: hilarity at special prices from *The Times* Theatre Club — see panel below

TOMORROW

Treasures for all? Some of the nation's prize baubles go on display at Christie's

LONDON RECITALS

Radiant display of youthful talent

AN EXPLOSION of new works lit the Purcell Room on Tuesday — all concentrated in the Park Lane Group's first concert of the evening. This was a recital by Nicolas Hodges, a talented young pianist and champion of the music of Bill Hopkins.

Hopkins wrote his *Etudes en Serie* between 1965 and 1972, influenced by James Joyce and Samuel Beckett. Hodges gave a passionate first performance of his still unpublished third and final book of three studies: the outer two taking the form of tiny, formal, isorhythmic constructs, and the central one spiralling outwards as a complex rondo of florid expression on simultaneous, yet contrasted, dynamic planes. This was the most striking work in the recital, but I also enjoyed the strong, spare serial language of Alwynne Pritchard's *Mesarch*, receiving its London premiere; and a six-minute fragment of a work in progress: Patrick Ozzard-Low's robust *Sonata*.

The evening's second recital focused on the players: Julia Stanforth, a bassoonist of stamina and flair; the perceptive pianist and chamber musician Sophia Rahman; and

PLG Young Artists Purcell Room

an accomplished young viola player called Ashan Pillai. Here was a welcome opportunity to hear two more works by this year's PLG featured composer, Anthony Payne. Payne's music is fresh and engaging, yet challenging. It is open and honest, linguistically distinctive and sure.

The Enchantress Plays, an eight-minute piece for bassoon and piano, grows from little curled motifs which unfurl into the full leaf of song against a spare, impressionistic backdrop. Pillai's solo viola then increased Payne's *Amid the Winds of Evening*, an abstract study demanding, and receiving, minute control and imaginative projection. Pillai's viola, gently accompanied by Rahman, finally sang out the melody of Gavin Bryars's *The North Shore*, inspired by Whitby's landscape and a reflection on the obsession of Jules Verne's Captain Hatteras who, in his final madness, would walk only towards the North.

HILARY FINCH

Too little too late

Lin/Crossley Wignore Hall

FRENCH violin sonatas and other pieces were the substance of the programme given by Cho-Liang Lin and the pianist Paul Crossley, with whom he has recently recorded the identical assortment. Here they began with the Poulenc Sonata of 1943, written in memory of Lorca, which could benefit from a more vividly dramatic approach than the Taiwan violinist offered.

Indeed, for much of the recital's first part Lin seemed curiously disengaged from the music he played, toying with Ravel's *Berceuse* on the name of *Fauré* as if it were one of the composer's *Mother Goose* pieces, and coasting through Ravel's own mature G major Sonata with undernourished tone that left Crossley's more searching piano playing the dominant partner.

A similar balance continued after the interval in Debussy's Sonata too, although here the violinist began to make a more positive contribution, with altogether sharper character in

the opening movement and an engaging sense of free fantasy in the middle movement. In the finale, however, which the composer described as "turning back on itself like a snake biting its own tail," the brisk violin writing was made to sound effortful.

The performers thereupon reverted to Ravel and the A minor Sonata he composed while still a student and which was posthumously discovered. A discursive work in one straggling movement, it sometimes sounds less like familiar Ravel than César Franck, but also discloses hints of the composer to come, and it was given an appropriately rhapsodic indulgence to exhibit its warmth of character. Finally, Lin was able to display an accomplished bravura in Ravel's *Trigane*.

NOEL GOODWIN

When Irish eyes are mocking

Cripple Billy's aunts sit in their stark grocery store, which is packed with little but tins of peas, and ruminate about his prospects. He'll never get kissed except by a blind girl, says one without the least unkindness. A blind or backward girl, replies the other with equal lack of rancour. They amiably agree that even the local slut, who would kiss a bald donkey, would draw the line at Cripple Billy. As for his eyes, "you'd see never in a goat", and, as for his personality, "all he does is go around staring at cows".

By the time Ruaidhri

The Cripple of Inishmaan Cottesloe

Conroy's Billy stumbles in, you are braced for a mix of the Hunchback of Notre Dame and the Phantom of the Opera. In fact, he is a pale, melancholy wisp unlikely enough to walk like a disjointed puppet.

But the build-up is characteristic of Martin McDonagh's wonderfully funny, troubling play. It takes us to the Aran Islands in 1934, some 27 years after Synge set *The Playboy of the Western World* there, and, again like Synge, shows us a tiny, cut-off community where the supposed norms of consideration and morality simply don't apply.

Like the trapped, embittered daughter — in McDonagh's equally engrossing *Beauty Queen of Leenane*, Cripple Billy dreams of escape. The difference is that he makes it, at least for a bit. Robert Flaherty is shooting a film about sharks on another Aran Island, and Billy hitches a lift to the set, from where he is whisked to Hollywood for a screen test.

And are his dreams fulfilled? Is escape possible? All I will reply is that the 26-year-old McDonagh, though resident in London, is at root an Irish realist in the tradition of Synge, O'Casey, Friel and Billy Roche.

He is also a born storyteller with a precocious sense of dramatic structure. There are constant yet logical twists to the plot. When you feel he is getting sentimental, he hits you with a corrective shock. When you think you have caught him edging too near to aping Synge's language, you find the parody is deliberate. Even the ending, seemingly soft, is dark and highly provisional.

Strong witness to the persecution

The White Devil Barbican Pit

AS ELIOT reminds us, "Webster was much possessed by death/And saw the skull beneath the skin", and it is possibly in reference to these lines that director Gale Edwards and her designer Peter J. Davison hang a portrait of the lusty Duke of Brachiano in a commanding position between the arches of the rear wall. This is the picture his neglected wife kisses daily until observed by a hired murderer, who thereupon poisons the painted lips. At a certain moment in the drama the portrait is ripped from its frame like dead skin, uncovering a dark place packed with the bony relics of what Webster was much possessed by.

First seen last summer at Stratford in the Swan, Edwards's production is notably clear in its storytelling. Only when Flaminio, brother to the woman Brachiano desires, is feigning madness to avoid involvement in her temporary downfall, does the plot veer sideways into what seems an unnecessary complication. Since Webster makes Flaminio a confidant of Brachiano and his pander, it is hard to see how he contrives to remain poor and unadvanced at the ducal court.

The character does not declare, like Hamlet, "I lack promotion", but this is what grinds away at his moral being, vividly indicated in the look of hunger in Richard McCabe's performance. The hands he allows to wander over his sister's body suggest that he will never advance where he really wishes to go.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Ruaidhri Conroy (Billy), Aisling O'Sullivan (Helen) and Ray McBride (Johnnypateenmike) in Martin McDonagh's *The Cripple of Inishmaan*

The dialogue fizzles, the characters crackle. Ray McBride's Johnnypateenmike is a one-man local newspaper who cadges food by spreading gossip and admits without guilt that he hopes to kill his alcoholic mother by gutting her with whisky. To the doctor's threat to show him the old girl's liver, he ripostes with "I can barely stand me mammy's outside, let alone her inside". But he is a weakling beside Aisling O'Sullivan's Slippery Helen, who takes money from feuding farmers for killing their foes' cats and geese and likes nothing better than mocking Cripple Billy.

"You shouldn't laugh at other people's misfortunes," says Billy at one point, and there is genuine puzzlement in the answer, "why not?" You cannot exactly accuse the characters of callousness or brutality, for it is ingrained to the

point of offhandedness and there is seldom real malice in it. People come to Ireland because we're so friendly, says another member of Nicholas Hytner's fine cast. "Isn't it

what we're famed for?" And he sees no irony in the claim.

Similarly teasing portraiture provoked riots in the Abbey Theatre and, much later, moved Raymond Wil-

liams to express surprise at "how little respect the Irish drama has for the Irish people". Time will tell if McDonagh's display of expatriate scepticism causes of-

fence. All this Englishman can report is exhilaration at a tough, boisterous, gifted play.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

LONDON

Peacock Theatre Jan 11-12
● FRESH from an extensive British tour, *Snowshow* is unmissable. Hailed as one of the greatest clowns in the world, Slava, together with Angela de Castro, creates a series of bitter-sweet vignettes. Top-priced tickets £17.50 (normally £22.50). Tel 0171-314 8800

PERTH

Perth Theatre Jan 20-23
● TWO £12 tickets for the price of one for John Godber's *Lucky Soles*. Tel 01738 621031

HULL

New Theatre Jan 27
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6 to £12) for the new musical, *Dancing in the Street*. Tel 01482 226633

CHESTER

Gateway Theatre Jan 13-14
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50 to £10.50) to John Godber's *Bouncers*. Tel 01244 344238

BRIGHTON

Theatre Royal Feb 10
● TICKETS £9 (normally £16.50) for the musical, *La Cage aux Folles*. Tel 01273 328488

NORTHAMPTON

Derogate Theatre Jan 14-24
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £7 to £14) for Tues to Fri evening performances of *Jack and the Beanstalk*. Tel 01604 24811

BARNSTAPLE

Queen's Theatre Feb 18-19
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £6.50 to £10.50) for Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Tel 01271 24242

SOUTHEAST

Cliffs Pavilion Jan 14-18

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £16 to £20) for Moscow City Ballet's *Ophelia* (Jan 14-15) and *The Sleeping Beauty* (Jan 16-18). Tel 01702 351135

● NOW in its 21st year,

the London International Mime Festival continues to highlight the very best in innovation with more than 70 performances at venues across the capital. Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one for any of these shows at the Festival Hall. Tel 0171-960 4242

Jan 15, 8pm. Purcell Room.

With backgrounds in theatre, cabaret and the rock'n'roll circus Archais, Les Cousins are one of Europe's most sought-after physical comedy ensembles. Tickets normally £9.50

Jan 22, 8pm. Purcell Room.

An uproarious spoof of low budget epic movies, *Pastorale Voyage* features an army of skeleton warriors, a 100ft bronze titan, a mad Undersea Emperor and a six-armed swordfighting statue. Tickets normally £9.50

Jan 24, 7.45pm. Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Gorgeously costumed and inspired by the story of Romeo and Juliet, *Sur la Route de Sieme* is a combination of mystery and mayhem, romance and laughter. Tickets normally £14

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Peter Ackroyd ventures out on a haunting, haunted journey through the streets and the history of London, and finds a city of endless literary invention

Behold now this vast city of refuge

Recent work in cosmology and quantum physics seems to suggest that the "flow" of time and causation do not really exist — that it is possible, for example, for events of the "future" to determine the "past". Those of an imaginative disposition have known this for some years, of course, and Iain Sinclair is one of the leading exponents of what might be called the quantum novel. *Lights Out For the Territory* is not a work of fiction, however, but an act of imagination.

It is a book about London: it is, in other words, a book about everything. The London essay has a long history, encompassing Washington Irving and Charles Lamb, but it also becomes a form of urban necromancy. There are times when he resembles a revenant walking the streets of an ancient city, looking for runes or grimoires, but there are occasions when he also seems to exist in some unimaginable future when strange territorial configurations or patterns of energy shape the character and destiny of the city dwellers.

There are essays here on the clouds above the capital and on Rachel Whiteread's *House*, on London cinematography and London Gothic, on dogs and graffiti, on graveyards such as Bunhill Fields and the

LIGHTS OUT FOR THE TERRITORY

By Iain Sinclair
Granta Books, £12.99
ISBN 1 85376 004 1

extraordinary Abney Park Cemetery off Stoke Newington Church Street which seem to harbour all the mystery and bleakness of the city. Both of the latter are resting places for dissenters, and London has always had a history of spiritual radicalism: the heavy atmosphere around the graves, therefore, is all the city's own.

Iain Sinclair sets out to walk the bounds, as it were, and in the process to trace the sacred paths of a city which has for many hundreds of years been suspected of containing "occult lines of geometry". His first journey is down the fateful Kingsland Road, a voyage worthy of the pen of Conrad himself: Sinclair walks along this avenue of boarded shops and "squats" and cheap cafes, yet from it he derives such energy that his prose rises up in celebration.

These are all essays in praise of walking, and in praise of that mood of aimlessness and excitement which the streets of London seem to create — "drifting purposefully" as Sinclair puts it, at those moments when the alignment of buildings or the pattern of

courtyards and alleys leads the walker ineluctably forward.

The pedestrian then mimics the movement of time in the city itself, not proceeding in any particular line but flowing in many directions like a lava stream from some unknown source of fire. There are parts of London, in Sinclair's book, where time even may be said to have come to an end.

That is why Sinclair's prose is that of a poet, each phrase charged like an incantation, but it is also the prose of a Londoner finding his inheritance. It is, after all, a city of books. Each chapter of this survey has its own bibliography, as if he were walking through pages as well as streets.

The great aim of his prose is not to discover or to describe but to recollect: it is a dialogue with the dead in which only one can speak. His understanding of place is a refraction of all the memories associated with it and there are times when, like Huysmans, he sees the capital primarily as the invention of other writers.

He comes across the London Psychogeographical Association, which advertises its "35 Years of Non-Existence"; he roams the streets for evidence of the marvellous Mr Blake and sometimes treats London as some second Atlantis only recently recovered from the



Layers of history: traders at London's Smithfield market, chartered by the City of London in 1400; Bartholomew Fair was held here from 1123 until its suppression for rowdiness and debauchery in 1555; Wai Tyler was executed near by. Today the market sells 150,000 tonnes of meat a year.

water which provides its own "theatre of obelisks and pyramids, signs, symbols, prompts, whispers. The lovely lies that take you out into the light. That bless each and every pilgrimage."

As a stylist he is incomparable: he is the De Quincey of contemporary English letters, scathing and sometimes savage, fierce and even contemptuous, but always with an exultant humour that might belong to some classical masked actor.

Some of his themes are familiar. The interest in gang-

land "villains" goes further back than Colin MacInnes to Defoe and Ned Ward's *London Spy*, but Sinclair's account of Ronald Kray's funeral invokes primeval fears only to mingle them with the farce of that dead man's Easter parade. It is a wonderful performance by Sinclair, deliberately histrionic and yet desperately plausible, like some frantic tale shouted out by a crazed pedestrian. Who else would place Frankie Finner's autobiography, *Mad Frank*, beside Robert Graves's *The White Goddess*?

Londoners have always admired, or been fascinated by, criminals because they represent an alternative source of power — power other than that of the commercial and political "establishment" that has turned London into such a dark city.

The luminaries of London are always trying to find a way of confronting that darkness on their own terms: hence the perennial interest in occultism or antiquarianism which, in the Capital, have generally been connected. The names of Dee, of Tradescant, of

Ashmole, and of Fludd resound throughout this Baedeker of London's haunted past.

There are occasions, however, when Sinclair's own interest in such matters threatens to overburden his narrative journeys with too much significance. He is like some golden dustman sifting the heaps of St Pancras for ever more relics or ruins, and thereby he runs the danger of being caught in the ashes; his essays then become so fraught with coincidences and correspondences and connections that the reader may at times

find that it is difficult to follow the author's thread into the centre of the London labyrinth.

He also has an unnerving habit of turning his friends or acquaintances into fictional creatures, but then all great fabulists will wish to extend their range to the living as well as to the dead. And that is indeed Iain Sinclair's project, creating out of the world of time a city that has a manifold and perpetual presence. The mysterious photographs of Marc Atkins complete the process.

Intrigue in the last days of Weimar

How did the "Austrian corporal", as President Hindenburg contemptuously referred to Adolf Hitler, become the last Chancellor of the Weimar Republic and thereby also Führer of the Third Reich? Was it cock-up or conspiracy? Henry Ashby Turner's answer in this racy but deeply serious book is: both. The story reads like a thriller, full of clandestine meetings and backstairs intrigue, in which a handful of individuals engaged in high politics, not impersonal forces, bring about the catastrophe.

Consequently Turner has an eye for telling anecdotes. On New Year's Day 1933, as Hitler fantasised to the sound of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*, Chancellor Kurt von Schleicher enjoyed an Offenbach operetta: one singer ad libbed: "We'll form a Cabinet and dissolve the Reichstag!" Hitler would never have been appointed without an elaborate plot to deceive the Head of State, Hindenburg, by those who were closest to him: his prickly son Oskar, his saturnine Chief of Staff Meißner, and his vain favourite Franz von Papen. But



"The New Attack": a Berlin magazine's satire of the Nazi party's soliciting funds in 1932

Daniel Johnson

HITLER'S THIRTY DAYS TO POWER
January 1933
By Henry Ashby Turner, Jr
Bloomsbury, £16.99
ISBN 0 7465 3004 1

the plot went wrong: the members of this camarilla also deceived themselves about Hitler's intentions. Hindenburg was not senile, but he too was disloyal. Having dismissed one Chancellor after another he finally betrayed his oath to the Republic by handing power to Hitler, who had sworn to destroy what the Nazis (anticipating the 1960s) always called "the system".

And the only man who just might have thwarted this just conspiracy, General Schleicher, emerges not as he is conventionally portrayed — the spider at the centre of the web of spies — but as a self-deluding dilettante.

It is in Turner's analysis of Schleicher's brief Chancellorship that he last less than two months in office — that the real originality of the book lies. This shadowy figure kept his own counsel and his motives have remained a mystery. He was one of the Republic's many career soldiers who found themselves

in politics only because there was a vacuum at the top. "Too bad that I have no propensity to megalomania," Schleicher wrote: he was not hungry enough for power to be a match for "one of the greatest demagogues of all time", as Hitler's embittered former comrade General Ludendorff described him.

Historians have generally assumed that Schleicher's plan was to split the Nazi party by offering to make the leader of its "socialist" wing, Gregor Strasser, his deputy. Turner disproves this theory, showing that Schleicher hoped to win support from the

whole Nazi movement, still the largest party. Schleicher's threat was to obtain a dissolution of the Reichstag from the President, followed by an election in which the Nazis would do badly; his aim was to gain time for his Keynesian job creation package to take effect. (Unemployment peaked just as he lost power, and Hitler took the credit.) Though he was able to see off Strasser's challenge, Hitler's support was deteriorating fast, and his insistence on the Chancellorship as the price of participation in government was unpopular. Another month or two and Hitler might have been forced to carry out his threat to "finish myself off with a pistol in three minutes" — 12 years before he in fact did.

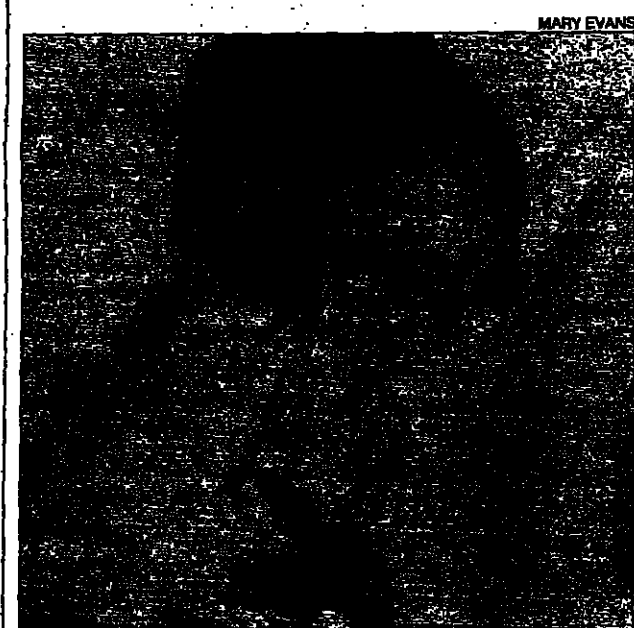
What finished Schleicher off was the treachery of his friend and creature, the former Chancellor Papen. With the help of the President's entourage and one of his Junker neighbours in East

Prussia, Papen persuaded Hindenburg that Hitler could be controlled by a conservative, Catholic and military coalition Cabinet with broad parliamentary support. Big business played no significant role, according to Turner, who has argued this thesis ferociously in the past. The only major capitalist in the conspiracy, the press baron and Nationalist leader Alfred Hugenberg, was prevailed upon to drop his objection to a new election by a simple ruse: Hindenburg, Meißner announced, could not be kept waiting any longer.

During the last days before January 30, rumours circulated of a coup led by Schleicher and his friend, the Army's Chief of Staff Hammerstein. Fear helped to force Hindenburg's hand. But what if the Reichswehr had taken over? Reflecting on contingency and culpability, Turner concludes that a military putsch was the logical outcome of the unforeseen constitutional impasse in which the Republic found itself, with incompatible extremist parties of Right and Left able to deprive any government of a majority.

Schleicher would certainly have been a more benign dictator than Hitler. "What Germany needs today is a strong man," he had boasted. But this "question mark with the epaulettes of a general", as Trotsky called him, lacked the nerve to insist on a military solution at the outset of his spell in office, when Hindenburg might have agreed. Schleicher's "civic fatalism" was itself fatal to himself and his wife (they were murdered a year later on the Night of the Long Knives), to Germany, and to the world.

Not quite equal, even in death



Preserved for ever: memorial photograph, circa 1870

Christopher Hawtree

DEATH IN THE VICTORIAN FAMILY
By Pat Jalland
OUP, £25
ISBN 0 19 280185 5

Samuel Beckett was much possessed by death. Samuel Beckett, that is, the provincial surgeon and author of *My First Grief*. This 1854 memoir of a sister drew upon several hundred deathbed scenes to assure Christians that slow consumption is better than fever, insanity or sudden accident. There was even joy in "the calm, heavenly, and truly edifying bearing and conversation of a pious young person slowly wearing away under pulmonary consumption".

Years was to say that man has created death, and there is now certainly a boom in death studies. In the wake of Philippe Ariès, there are the monumental works by John McManners and Ruth Richardson. These are the contemporary equivalent of all those threnodic, therapeutic memorial volumes which animate yet another such study, *Death in the Victorian Family*. Elegantly produced, baldly indexed, Pat Jalland's substantial volume is almost as fascinating as it is repetitive.

Numerous times one is told that Archbishop Taft, the future Archbishop of Canterbury, lost five daughters to an epidemic of scarlet fever in Carlisle during 1856. Maligned fate was not appeased, for, on gaining high office, Taft was blighted by the death of his wife and son. A memorial volume satisfied a need in himself and many others — royalties of £1,547-4s-5d had accumulated within the first twelve months. Such awkward prosperity was dwarfed by that of Courtauld's. The firm boomed, for not only was there demand for obligatory widow's weeds but superstition made it unlucky to keep each supply of crape in the house too long.

Names recur as each chapter discusses separate topics, and many such details enliven the tracing of changes in attitudes to death. More could be made of agnostic Sir Leslie Stephen, whose *Mausoleum Book* exudes chronic grief. Professor Jalland shows that this was rare, even if few were so bold as Oscar Wilde's Lady, Harbury in "living entirely for pleasure now... her hair has turned quite gold from grief". From its beginnings in pervasive evangelism, this turbulent era found its causal conclusion in the craters of the Somme.

In drawing on so many family archives, the effect is *How the Rich Die*. Here is Lady Dilke, whose terror of being buried alive galvanised the cremation movement. Ada Lovelace shared that fear, but took the risk to lie beside her father, Lord Byron. Suicide Blanch Cripps was content that her head should rest on a Bible, her feet on a Shakespeare.

Just as wreaths replaced pomp, so Disraeli preferred a funeral at Hughenden to the Duke of Wellington's State ceremony. Protocol prevented the Queen's attending and, oddly, Gladstone was too busy, but among the onlookers was the undergraduate John Meade Falkner. He and his low-ranking ancestors find no place here but death stalked every move and would haunt his eminent life. Among his papers is a photograph of a four-year-old brother dead in his coffin. This was Victorian custom, and no less haunting to a biographer — it could so easily have been the author of *Moonfleet* himself.

Dangerous fools and immoral lives

Russell Celyn Jones

THE MISSIONARY'S WIFE
By Tim Jeal
Little, Brown, £15.99
ISBN 0 316 88113 4

The Missionary's Wife is an historical saga set in 1946 but its quite resplendently alongside the works of Elia and Meredith. Certainly, when Jeal's heroine Clara Musson, seeking a husband, chooses "virtue over class, there is a sense of déjà vu, but it is curious why a serious author like Jeal would bother to reconstruct the moral climate of a Victorian novel when you can read the originals. It is as though we are implicitly being asked to suspend Post-Modern disbelief.

That said, Jeal's narrative is exciting and exact, even if the outcome is preordained — "When the white man came here, he had the Bible and the black man had the land. Now the black man has the Bible and the white man has the land."

Clara marries Robert Haslam, an uncompromising missionary whom she meets while he is touring through her Midlands hometown. She follows him to south central Africa where Haslam has spent the previous ten years

doggedly trying to convert Chief Mponda to Christianity. Haslam understands Africans well but insists that Chief Mponda divorces all his wives except the first as a condition of his baptism. But an African woman without a husband starves. Clara alone is alert to the potential tragedy and campaigns, in vain, on behalf of Mponda's youngest wife, Herida.

Haslam's evangelism is fated to have far more dire consequences for Herida and her father Nshu, the local witchdoctor, murders some of the newly converted tribe. He plots to kill both Haslam and Mponda before Christianity disfranchises him. But Haslam turns his assassins

into converts. Mponda flees his kraal and joins the "rebels" fighting a civil war against the colonists.

A detachment of British troops are deployed to the area. They face annihilation unless their commanding officer, Francis Vaughan, with Haslam's assistance can persuade Mponda to surrender. But the two men mistrust each other. Soldiers lead "immoral lives". Missionaries are "dangerous fools".

The descriptions of the African landscape are luminous and tactile; details of military campaigns and strategies, on both sides, are authentic without being technically overbearing. And in Haslam, Jeal has a remarkable creation. So too thinks Mponda, who puts his faith in the man more than in the abstract Christ he represents. This is essentially Jeal's theme. The tribe only see the missionary's heroics, while we see his crown of thorns slip over his eyes.

Haslam is too pure to love, insisting on his conjugal rights each night. Clara's loss of faith

is accompanied by a concomitant loss of love. She falls for the more sensual Vaughan who has no faith and is thus prone to human fallibility. Her disagreements with him over the ethics of war threaten to be as love-breaking as her disagreements with Haslam over religion.

It is all very well done, even if certain questions remain unanswered. For instance, what are we meant to read into the exact 100-year breach between setting and original. *The Missionary's Wife* from a late 20th-century vantage point Jeal seems to be re-evaluating Victorian virtue as an overrated commodity. But what of contemporary virtues? Barry Unsworth in *Sacred Hunger* at least made allusions to contemporary politics by slipping into his 18th-century narrative a few very modern phrases. Slave traders are among us still. But if you like your historical fiction told straight up, then you would be hard pressed to find a better novel than this.

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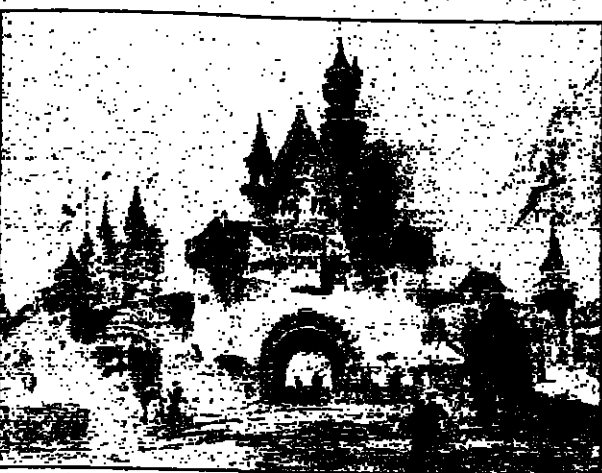
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Just below the dignity of history



Roger Scruton examines the marketing of tradition

THE HERITAGE CRUSADE And the Spoils of History By David Lowenthal Viking £25 ISBN 0 670 94257 5

Al over the globe, the heritage industry is taking off, manufacturing for the uprooted peoples of the modern world flattering images of the antiquity and legitimacy of their habits, governments and ways of life. Unlike most modern industries, heritage is not a British invention — the French, who were first to take a canon to their past, were also the first to pick up the pieces and begin to polish them. They have had an office for historic monuments since early in the last century, and its first commissioner, Prosper Mérimée, invented, in the story and character of Carmen, a sizeable chunk of the Spanish heritage, leaving his compatriot Georges Bizet to finish the job.

The invention of heritage is a fascinating story, and David Lowenthal tells it with vigour, style and a Balzacian relish for detail. From the National Trust to the memorabilia-craze of Elvis-fans, from the invented folklore of Brittany and Finland to the mythopoetic doctrines of "Black history" and the Stonehenge druids; from the Kansan curator who exhibits 15 kinds of barbed wire and \$3,000 worth of buttons, to the 85,000 "hobby Indians" in Germany and Poland — all of them are gathered up with a true collector's instinct.

Indeed, Lowenthal is an example of the craze that he documents, erecting a museum in words that will testify to what we were, should any future generation care to remember us. His racy style keeps us constantly on the move, and we are hurried past the trophies by a tour-guide's patter of ideas and anecdotes. At the end of the journey, emerging into the sun of your daily prejudice, your natural reaction is "Cor, makes you think."

But what, exactly, should we think? Lowenthal's examples are so diverse, and range so freely between the nation-forming myths that have

made modern history, and the local crazes that have enabled people to live in it, that it becomes unclear, after a while, whether there is any single thing that he means by "heritage". He mentions Plato's penetrating idea of the Noble Lie — the myth of origins which would secure allegiance to the city-state, but only after it had been passed down the generations and become immune from criticism. If that is heritage, then it is surely a very different thing from the time-encapsules of Disneyland, or the carefully preserved shrines to a vanished past which are the matter of the tourist trade. As Lowenthal shows, it is the second kind of heritage that appeals to modern people, most of whom have lost all knowledge of their national stories, heroes and sacred texts, and wander bewildered

in a moral landscape that is remade from day to day. The important thing about heritage, in these conditions, is that it is manufactured. Heritage must sell, and this means that it must be packaged, advertised and adapted to the changing tastes of consumers. Lowenthal takes great delight in displaying this process, and introduces an interesting question. Why is it that we now refer always to our heritage, rather than to my inheritance? Lowenthal has no answer, but points acutely to the difference between the aristocrat who bequeaths name, title and land to his offspring, and claims the same from his forebears, and the heritage industry which has more or less extinguished his rights by taking charge of them. The National Trust preserves the aristocrat's house (and usually the poor old boy himself in

some unvisited wing of it) as part of our heritage, and his last ditch attempts to save his inheritance by selling off the pictures to an American museum are denounced as a violation of our sacred rights.

Then another and yet more interesting question arises, and Lowenthal devotes thoughtful pages to it. What is the difference between heritage and history? If heritage is a matter of manufacturing the past for popular consumption, how do we know that history is not another product of the heritage industry?

This question is of considerable urgency now that school history has been debunked (often with scant respect for the truth) as a Noble Lie. As Lowenthal points out, the critics of school history are typically in the business of

VERMEER'S painting of a young woman reading a letter arguably tells us that the self is beautiful. It is beauty of a high, moral kind because the self constitutes our engagement with the world. Since Locke and thanks to him, and thanks to Freud, we have come to realise that the self is more than consciousness, more than memory, and morally as important to us as was for a Greek his Platonic soul.

Unlike the Greek, the sphere in which the modern self is active looks busy and irregular. Influences rain upon us, and yet the self still seems to be more than the assembled detritus after the storm. We have the kind of self-reflection, and capacity for self-realisation, which Fichte and Hegel put at the centre of their world views. By our actions we sort out what in us is autonomous from what is determined.

Roger Scruton momentarily lost me in the third of these 16 essays when he described the letter reader as "self-absorbed". The truth is surely that, far from being in that unattractive condition of being engrossed in herself, this woman is completely taken up in the reality of another. The self allows us to reach "out" as well as "in" to appreciate the world.

As Terry Eagleton points out, we are especially advised by Wittgenstein to avoid manufacturing such a fantastic spiritual geography as would chart an internal versus an external world. So we look back over the various languages four centuries of religion, philosophy, literature, psychology and latterly cultural studies have provided, uncommitted but fascinated. Not all the contributors to this collection would agree, but it seems clear to me if there has been progress then we have just a rounder understanding of something essentially elusive, our inability to capture it not painful, since we live it. The earlier 18th century thought that the self amounted to acting a part. It courted

Lesley Chamberlain
REWRITING THE SELF
Histories from the Renaissance to the Present
Edited by Roy Porter
Routledge £45
ISBN 0 415 14291 2

the kind of insincerity Rousseau existed to overthrow. Out of the same world came the self as sensibility. The idea was to cultivate the feelings we should have and let novels encourage us.

The 19th century, by taking this inwardness out of the feminine boudoir and giving it a masculine identity out on the heath, put muscular sentimentality at the centre of the Romantic project to define the self in nature. Roger Scruton apologises for the elitism of his Romantic travellers but rightly admires their insistence on being "physically fit and metaphysically alert".

TWO significant appurtenances of the story of the self figure here: the road to be tramped, and the energy, indeed joy, we must use to tramp it. These studies come with apologies for Eurocentricity. They suggest it has been difficult to have a female Self. They show hardly anyone working in the field today considers relevant the concept of personal responsibility, which made a definition of the self necessary for Locke.

Too many pages reduce instead to lists of impinging cultural artefacts. But then Eagleton's *Self-Undoing Subjects* situates Freud, Wittgenstein and the self-defeating Post-Modern contribution all within a great Western Tradition. If you buy this book you will pick up this and that along the way to help you think about your Self, but nothing compares to the worth of this beautiful final essay.

Creating the infinite I am



Absorbed in another self: Girl reading a letter at an open window by Vermeer (1632-75)

substituting new lies for old. But the true historian, he adds, has another task: not to give us all the facts, for he is bound to select among them, but to look on the facts impartially, and in a spirit of collaborative enquiry. This habit of impartial and collective truth-seeking is precisely what the heritage industry puts at risk. Lowenthal's wise reflections come too late, of course: the Owl of Minerva spreads its wings only with the gathering of the dusk.

My one major criticism of this lovely book is that the distinction between heritage and history does not exhaust our attitudes to the past. The country house, before the Trust takes over, is a "live tradition": a focus of social and economic activity that renews itself through change. Tradition is neither history nor heritage, but the past living in the present. It is our traditions,

and not our heritage, that we should value — and it is these that are most truly threatened by the uncritical pursuit of "progress".

The King James Bible was once a live tradition: the words were natural to us, repeated in church and used in daily life for our solemn thoughts and feelings. Now it is part of heritage (though not part of the history curriculum). The common law is still a live tradition, and the greatest guarantee of our national sovereignty. But soon it will be extinguished by the nationalist edicts of the European Courts, and a thread of the nation's identity will be broken. As with other historians who have debunked our myths about the past, Lowenthal overlooks what is healthy and necessary in our respect for the dead.

Hypnotic mistress of the art of passionate restraint

Tania Glyde
ORIGINAL BLISS
By A. L. Kennedy
Cape, £14.99
ISBN 0 224 04435 5

Original Bliss is A. L. Kennedy's fifth work of fiction in barely more years. There are ten short stories and a novella from which the book takes its title. The blurb writers at Jonathan Cape continue to insist that her books are about sex. Since sex as a subject comes only a short way below heroin on the shifts-copies scale they may, in fact, have parity — I can see why they do it. However, I think they are doing this author a peculiar disservice. Sex is with us always: art is full of it. Despite the fact that sexuality is explored in every one of the stories here, as a *raison d'être* it cancels itself out.

A. L. Kennedy is a master of the art of enclosure, corralling her characters in lucid pens of thought. She writes with great depth about isolation, about people who keep a part of themselves back, whether by destiny or by choice. Of course, this does not necessarily make them happy, or content. But then this author does not pretend to a joyous aesthetic. *Original Bliss* explores the autonomy of privacy, of physical needs and how they coincide or clash with the often very unhappy experience of self.



Kennedy: prose that ritualises personal relationships.

Sometimes her approach is frustrating. In *Groucho's Moustache*, the character states early on "I do so love to trust. I've passed many jolly years growing used to being made this way." From this, I expected an ironic study of power. Instead the story is more personal: "Receiver and

Deceiver, both uncovered, we recognise each other instinctively, like lemmings rushing together so they can free-fall holding paws."

This ritualisation of personal relationships strongly pervades her work. Personally, I always find it suspect: if you ritualise a situation you can avoid confronting the true imbalance of power within it; although you may be saving your own sanity in the process. The novella, *Original Bliss*, is a study of redemption. It is about a woman, trapped in a violent marriage and mourning the loss of her religious faith, who meets a shamanic professor with a dirty secret. Full of intense, stilted communication, the story seemed to get longer the nearer I got to finishing it.

This is not to deny the author's skill, but rather to admit to the extreme claustrophobia of the situation. This is despite the slightly unbelievable characters and the aridity of their presentation. But then, A. L. Kennedy's style is particularly self-referential. When the professor takes Mrs Brindle to see some awful Finnish modern dance, he justifies it by saying that "it always helps me to think. I have no idea why and not the vaguest desire to find out. I go with the flow and watch." And that is the effect of A. L. Kennedy's style. Purity of thought and a sharp, acrid vocabulary combine to hypnotise the reader into believing her. There is a great deal to think about here.

SATURDAY BOOKS
In the Directory: Maureen Owen enters the Discworld to meet Terry Pratchett
Derwent May is enchanted by *The French*

Poems to keep the barbarians at bay

Michael Hofmann
COLLECTED POEMS
By John Fuller
Chano & Windus, £20
ISBN 0 7011 6612 6
EXPANDED UNIVERSES
By Christopher Reid
Faber, £6.99
ISBN 0 571 17924 X

John Fuller and Christopher Reid are both on the T.S. Eliot Prize, to be announced this Monday. Both purvey the sort of wit and tidiness that — whatever the final result — are so highly prized in English poetry today. Fuller, the son of the poet Roy Fuller, is a don at Oxford. A novelist and short story writer as well as a fluent and prolific poet, sometime collaborator with James Fenton (on the delicious skit *Parricide*), and mentor and friend to a clutch of younger writers — Bernard O'Donoghue, Mick Imlah and Alan Hollinghurst among them — he is a significant presence in British letters who, singlehandedly, has made Oxford into a vibrant and nurturing place. His *Collected Poems* are published in his 60th year.

Fuller has been a skilful and organised poet since his teens. This substantial volume shows the presiding influence of Auden, as well as reflecting a number of passing styles: the Movement in the Fifties, the imagistic vignettes of the Review school, the Martians of the Seventies. Formally, he offers huge variety, a whole department store of poetry: from haiku elegies and a sonnet in disyllables, to *terza rima*, quatrains and quinquets, to satirical epistles and Browningesque tales, to Classical hexameters and a verse novel, *The Illusionists*, in the Pushkin stanza (chucking in three acrostics as it goes) to other things I wouldn't even know the name of.

He is the author of a much-loved *Valentine* ("I like it when you tilt your cheek up/I like the way you nod and hold a napkin/I like your legs

when you unwind them./ Even in trousers I don't mind them."), a suite on the shores of England, poems on chess and music, and long meditations on landscape and astronomy. Like Auden, he has his *longueurs*. *The Illusionists* shows him not quite able to pull off a narrative, more a series of wittily embellished tangents.

Still, you never have to go for very many lines without some wit or felicity or spark of enchantment, whether in rhyme (he is probably the best polysyllabic rhymist since Byron), or diction (someone doing martial arts in Gerrards Cross becomes "a black belt in the green belt") or idea (say, "the curable romantic"). His facility and versatility resist easy description. You expect — perhaps — a poem like *Amazing*, on pornography ("Such drooping and dragging./ Such feinting and flagging./ Such sighing and sagging/ Saw I never."), but not *Metropolitan*, with its cunningly proverbial alien idiom: "The centre of cities move westwards; the centre of the mother of cities has disappeared./ North the great cat, East the great water, South the great fire, West the great arrow."

Christopher Reid, whose fifth book *Expanded Universes* is, seems more specialised and

intriguing, less of a challenge to the reviewer with taxonomy on his mind. One of the early "Martians", he has been gradually disarming himself and his readers, ever since his 1985 book of Eastern European "translations", the wonderful *Katerina Brac*.

The ground-note of *Expanded Universes* is a kind of bemused acquiescence. The characteristically clever and mocking pretence is that Reid's speakers are not hurt into articulation (as Auden describes), but are surprised into it, having been dragged out of them by a wickedly eccentric world. His voice in these short and pellucid and beautifully written things is the one Cawley discovered in his famous poem, *Waiting for the Barbarians* ("What are we waiting for, assembled in the forum? The barbarians are due here today.") The shortest poem in the book goes: "One dog barks/ at hot-air balloons/ whenever they approach/ another at night moths./ They are guarding the premises."

Clinchingly, it is called *Home*. For all his air of naive musing, the speaker still apprehends a world in which all the pieces are cogs, and the bite of these cogs is what passes for meaning.

The venturesome thing about *Expanded Universes* is how much aggression and — albeit ritualised — violence Reid has worked into these seemingly harmless and weightless pieces. Some of the poems witness it ("one mine hitting another/ or shoving or tripping or wrestling/ him or her over/ the better to plant a good kick"), others (*Nature, Men Against Trees*) praise it,

others again seem to enact it in their spiky rhymes. In the book's *route-fence*, *Two Dogs on a Pub Roof*, Reid rhymes for a hundred lines on the one sound of barking. It is as though he has taken the work of Hobbes, and made it into *papier maché* decorations.

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CRICKET: COMMITMENT THE COMMON FACTOR AS SOUTH AFRICA BASK IN GLORY AND ENGLAND LOOK TO RIGHT SOME WRONGS

Time ripe for Caddick to take up his option

FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN AUCKLAND

AFTER a day in the nets at Eden Park, England's cricketers prepared for the journey to New Plymouth, where they meet a New Zealand Cricket Academy team tomorrow in a one-day game. It may be a match of little consequence but, for some of the players who have felt undervalued on this two-pronged tour, it means making a fresh start.

Everybody on this tour is talking about making a fresh start, and with good reason, but nobody is looking forward to the second part of the winter with more enthusiasm than Andrew Caddick. Somerset's talented fast-medium seam bowler, who was overlooked during the two months in Zimbabwe, Caddick was born in Christchurch to English parents and will meet them for the first time in two years when the party goes to Palmerston North next week for a four-day game against an Invitation XI.

He is certain to play against the academy students, along with Dominic Cork, who is beginning his winter's work after a lengthy rest, and Jack Russell. Phil Tufnell, his spinning fingers itching after a period of inactivity, is also likely to play. Two men who will not be involved are Robert Croft, who hurt a toe batting in the nets, and Graham Thorpe, who has a calf strain.

Caddick's Test career has been something of a stop-start affair, stopped most recently when he was dropped for the final Test of last summer, against Pakistan at the Oval, after bowling tolerably well at Headingley, where England failed to make the most of some friendly conditions for swing and seam bowling. England preferred Chris Lewis to him in that final Test, and it cannot be said that the decision was justified.

Caddick is not the easiest chap to rub along with and

cuts a slightly uncomfortable figure in an England party that is in much better heart than people in England might realise. To put it mildly, he has much to play for in the next two months. A bolder interpretation might be that he is playing for his Test future. Any repetition of his fearless performance in Zimbabwe and he can return to Taunton, or Christchurch, on extended leave.

Caddick has never denied that he made his decision to side with England six years ago for opportunistic reasons, and he said as much again yesterday. It was a "career move", and players who admit to those have to try doubly hard to gain the confidence of team-mates and those who pick teams. Caddick has yet to do that and he is quickly running out of opportunities.

"All I can do is get stuck in," he said during the two-part net session yesterday. "I have a lot to prove and I will be steaming in. Now that Dominic Cork is around, there will be a lot of competition for places in the Test side."

David Lloyd, the coach, picked up on that theme. "The challenge is there for Caddick and others to impress," he said. "There was a lifting of spirits that needed to be done [after Zimbabwe] and we must now turn criticism of our cricket into some favourable reports, and the players can do that only on the field."

Michael Atherton, for one, will be happy to start playing proper cricket again after the nonsense at the Ericsson Stadium on Tuesday night, when he was caught by a woman cricketer, one Emily Drummond, in a football benefit match for Danny Morrison. Though he was not saying so yesterday, at least not publicly, Atherton was appalled at the coverage given in English newspapers



Caddick in full flight during England's net practice at Eden Park yesterday

to this unremarkable incident in a ridiculous beer match. So were his team-mates, one of whom made his opinions quite plain to journalists.

Perhaps it is time to admit that, off-times, we journalists do not give the players the support that they deserve, or cloud over what happens and

thus present a misleading image. The tone was set this week when Michael Nicholson, the ITN reporter, blundered into the opening day press conference as though he were dealing with a tale of international proportions, and made a fool of himself. It shocked the New Zealanders,

and succeeded only in making the England players more wary of the cricket journalists who are here to cover the cricket that is proper cricket.

The players deserve better. My word, how we hammer them at times for the sake of a cheap story.

Bacher salutes a team's return to true greatness

JOHN WOODCOCK



compares great sides from different eras

Dr Ali Bacher, the custodian of South African cricket, has described the Test match in which India were beaten here in Cape Town earlier this week as "the most joyous in South Africa's cricket history". The one he picks out to go alongside is the Durban Test of 1970, when Graeme Pollock and Barry Richards, their two finest postwar batsmen, had their one matchless hour together and Australia were beaten by an innings.

Having been fortunate enough to see both matches, I can say that the batting of Pollock and Richards at Kingsmead and of Tendulkar and Azharuddin on Sabarwal was pretty well on a par, albeit richly different in style. The greater partnership, though, was unquestionably the one between the Indians: it was made against much better bowling and came when South Africa seemed in total control.

Bacher's appraisal was not based on cricket alone: there was an emotional element to it as well. When Pollock and Richards were crashing Alan Connolly and John Gleeson through the covers 27 years ago, Nelson Mandela was incarcerated on Robben Island; when Tendulkar and Azharuddin were flicking the South African bowlers off their toes last Saturday, Mandela came to the ground and brought joy and reconciliation with him. Bacher is right in more ways than one: last weekend's was a particularly "joyous match".

Hansie Cronje, the South Africa captain, considers the difference between his side and India is South Africa's greater strength in their second-line fast bowling. It is not that, though, which has taken them into the top rank of Test sides.

Apart from Allan Donald, they bowl with nothing like the venom of the West-Indies teams of the 1980s, and Donald pitches the ball up much more than they did. He can still bowl the occasional very fast one, but what is so impressive about him now is how he has increased his range, rather as Ray Lindwall, Richard Hadlee and Malcolm Marshall did when they, too, got to 30 and needed to slow down. Not everyone can do it.

is why South Africa will never want for outdoor sportsmen. They have the fire and the will and the physique, and, almost above all, they have the climate.

Man for man, the batsmen in their present Test side are certainly no more naturally gifted than England's. England's have all scored Test centuries since Cronje last got one, and in Adam Bacher, nephew of the doctor, South Africa have a relative tyro at No. 3. On paper England's first five are at least as good.

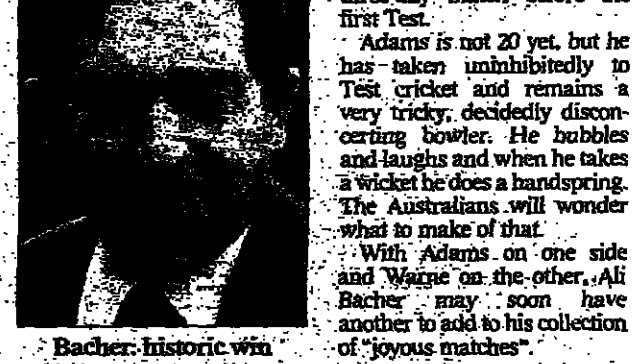
Then the difference starts. South Africa have all-rounders in the next four places to give their side its balance — the imperturbable McMillan, the reliable Richardson, the flaming Pollock and the lusty Klusener.

That McMillan was named as man of the match in this last Test marks him out as an exceptional cricketer, even at the age of 33. Tendulkar's 169 was just about the perfect innings and his partnership with Azharuddin just about the perfect partnership: Klusener scored what is thought to be South Africa's fastest Test hundred, and yet no one complains when McMillan won the award for his bowling and catching. Perhaps, on second thoughts, he is as good as Barlow.

But it is the last two in Cronje's side — Donald and Adams — who break the mould. Australia's introduction to Adams when they came here in a few weeks' time will be fascinating and crucial. Although he has been about for more than a year now, the Australians have never come up against Adams. Videos are no substitute for that and Western Province are unlikely to include him when they play the Australians in a three-day match, before the first Test.

Adams is not 20 yet, but he has taken unimpeachably Test cricket and remains a very tricky, decidedly disconcerting bowler. He bubbles and laughs and when he takes a wicket he does a hand spring. The Australians will wonder what to make of that.

With Adams on one side and Wayne on the other, Ali Bacher may soon have another to add to his collection of "joyous matches".



Bacher: historic win

BOWLS

Henry pays heavy price for late night

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

THE names of Jeremy Henry and Gary McCloy, two of Ireland's key players, were missing when the Ireland team for the home international series at Ballymoney, Northern Ireland, from March 12-14, was announced yesterday.

It is understood that their omission is the tip of an iceberg. As many as ten members of last winter's Ireland side, it seems, were omitted from this winter's 40-man international panel for disciplinary reasons and played no part in the trials process.

The ten are alleged to have stayed out late one night during the series at Achninleck last winter. They admitted the offence, but, curiously, they have not been officially informed that their absence is a form of punishment.

"We were not told officially that we were being dropped," Henry said. "The first I heard about it was when I heard that the shortlist of 40. Since then we have gathered, more from rumours than anything else, that we have been banned." He understands that the suspension is for one year only and that the ten will be considered on their merits next winter.

While it is possible that some of the ten might have been omitted in any case, it is inconceivable that Henry, a 22-year-old student who has already won his national singles title, indoors and out, and McCloy, a regular skip, were dropped for lack of form.

Henry won the world outdoor pairs championship last March, when he and Sammy Allen defeated the holders, Richard Corsie and Alex Marshall, in the final. That triumph followed just days after the Achninleck affair, and should have been enough to keep him in the side.

Ironically, although he will not be in Ireland's six-rink team, he will be popping down the road from Coleraine to the Provincial Towns club in Ballymoney — a journey of all six miles — to challenge for the British Isles triples title, because he recently won the Irish triples championship.

Several of Ireland's world outdoor championship side missed the series last year because the events in Achninleck and Adelaide were held virtually back to back, so the selectors were glad to recall players such as Allen, Ian McCloy and Noel Graham. Even better, they were delighted that Jim Baker, the 1984 world indoor singles champion, who has a bowls stadium named after him, has decided to come out of retirement, and have reinstated him as one of the six skips.

IRELAND TEAM: Rank One: R. Conry (Belfast), R. McCloy (Belfast), R. Battersby (Belfast), D. Conry (Belfast), Rank Two: M. Nutt (Co. Antrim), D. Gardner (Belfast), S. Moran (Co. Antrim), J. Baker (Co. Antrim), Rank Three: D. Coulter (Belfast), B. Thompson (Co. Antrim), A. Murphy (Co. Antrim), S. Allen (Provincial Towns), Rank Four: J. Nicol (Provincial Towns), S. Wylie (Co. Antrim), N. Booth (Co. Antrim), R. McCloy (Provincial Towns), Rank Five: G. Smyth (Co. Antrim), J. Smyth (Provincial Towns), I. McCloy (Provincial Towns), S. Adams (Co. Antrim), Rank Six: A. Montgomery (Belfast), R. Milligan (Provincial Towns), R. Elliot (Provincial Towns), N. Graham (Belfast).

BOXING: LATEST WHITE HOPE SURE HE CAN END AKINWANDE'S REIGN

Welch takes psychological approach

BY SRINIVAS SEN BOXING CORRESPONDENT

SCOTT WELCH is putting his trust more on psychological readiness than physical training to beat Henry Akinwande in Nashville, Tennessee, on Saturday. The Brighton heavyweight is convinced that self-belief in the weeks of preparation before a contest is more important than technical skill in the ring on the night.

Welch is following the advice of his former stablemate, Steve Collins, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight champion, who used psychology to great advantage in his two contests with Chris Eubank. It has led Welch to believe that he can be the first white British world heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimmons nearly a century ago by relieving Akinwande of the WBO title.

While no expense was spared on boxing preparation at the David Lloyd Tennis Centre in Eastbourne — six weeks of intensive work be-

fore setting off for Tennessee cost the former British champion £65,000 — he has relied on psychological conditioning to give him the focus needed to carry out his game plan.

Jim McDonnell, Welch's trainer, said that the most important part of his daily routine was the 36 minutes Welch spent on mental concentration on Akinwande himself. Because of Akinwande's height — he is 6ft 7in — and skinny appearance, the champion is called The Stick in the Welch gym. A notice on

the wall says: "Snap The Stick, Scott."

The main part of Scott's training comes after gym work when he spends 36 minutes, which is the length of a fight, sitting in a classroom staring at the notice. McDonnell said: "After training we go into this classroom and Scott sits in a chair thinking about Akinwande. At first I tell him to concentrate on the negatives for 15 minutes: defeat, getting people for fights and people saying he was a white dope



Welch: motivated



Akinwande: tall order

not a white hope. Then I tell him to think about the positives: hands up in the air, people wanting interviews, £1 million income from outside boxing, and he is the biggest man in sport in the country. Big-money fights waiting for him, financial security.

"For the last six minutes he thinks about Akinwande lying on the floor. Then I ask him which he liked more, the negatives or the positives."

The daily mental conditioning is expected to help Welch stay focused on the strategy and self-belief that he can beat Akinwande.

Just before he left for Tennessee last week it was also surprising to hear Welch saying: "If Mike Tyson was fighting Akinwande, I wouldn't give Akinwande a shot. I'm a pressure fighter like Mike Tyson and I'm certain I will beat him."

McDonnell added: "Our training system is 100 per cent professional. Everything Scott does is clocked, mapped out. He has improved beyond belief, because I have got him believing in himself."

SQUASH

Khan looks to Britain as PSA imposes ban

BY COLIN MCQUILLAN

JANISHER KHAN, the world champion from Pakistan, is relieved that he signed late last year to play for Surbiton in the Super Squash League that started in England this week and will run until mid-March.

He was banned from the Professional Squash Association (PSA) World Tour for a month and fined £1,000 yesterday for his last-minute withdrawal from the Mahindra International in Bombay last month, which means no income from the North American circuit later this month or from the International Tour event in Val de Loire, France, at the start of February.

Janisher has never been banned before, although he was once fined for lack of effort in a Stuttgart event in 1989. He has led the PSA world rankings uninterrupted since September 1993.

The Super Squash League does not recognise PSA bans, so the world champion could, if he chooses to leave the

warmth of Peshawar for the chilly climes of Britain, fulfil almost a complete season for his Surrey side.

A 21 defeat at the hands of the defending champions, ICL Lions, this week suggested that such a move could be extremely beneficial for Surbiton.

It took a determined fightback from Dan Jenson, of Australia, to defeat Nathan Dugan 6-9, 9-6, 8-10, 9-3, 9-6 to secure the points for the defending champions, with Del Harris beating Tony Hines at first-string and Mark Chaloner losing to Danny Meddings.

Manchester Northern had a similar scare in Wales when Mark Cairns defeated Derek Ryan at first-string for Druvraen Maesteg and Alex Gough needed five games to subdue Paul Gregory, the Greek No. 1, after Nick Taylor defeated David Evans.

Results, page 40

Benevolent rebel embraces radical agenda

David Miller finds Lord MacLaurin in bullish mood as United Kingdom Sports Council begins operations after interminable bureaucratic delay

WHEN Iain Sproat, the Minister for Sport, invited Sir Ian, now Lord, MacLaurin two years ago to be chairman-designate of the new UK Sports Council (UKSC), he no doubt thought he was appointing a part-time placed-man. Far from it. He is about to discover he has a rebel on his hands.

A benevolent rebel, it must be said, who is simultaneously dismayed by continuing British failure on the international sports stage, and frustrated by the Government's fudged creation of the UKSC. Lord MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, is not shy. He admits to being embarrassed by the present under-funded constitution of the UKSC, which he calls "ridiculous".

After interminable bureaucratic delay, the UKSC finally began operation this week, and staged a conference of 50 leading administrators, coaches, Olympians and representatives of the four regional sports councils. The prime, unequivocal message to emerge was that the Government has to make the UKSC a Lottery-funding distributor, to

establish that age-old equation: money equals power.

At present, the power still lies with the England Sports Council, which receives the lion's share, 83 per cent, of the £300 million from Lottery funding, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland dividing the remainder.

MacLaurin will select, for instance, the new Academy for Sport: the England Sports Council will pay the bill. If they approve. How absurd. "If a business is wrong," Lord MacLaurin said, "you write off the debts, and start from scratch. That is what should have happened with the UKSC. I've said to Sproat: 'Give us the set-up and I'll deliver — or fire me.' But I know I can deliver, because we have so many outstanding people, coaches and performers."

Warning shots have already been fired across the minister's bow. The Department of National Heritage has been told it is unwelcome as

"observer" at future UKSC meetings, and that no one is to be appointed to the UKSC without consultation with MacLaurin.

Sproat's PR exercise in nominating the high-profile, but unsuitable, Gary Lineker, Rob Andrew and Clive Lloyd has proved particularly inopportune.

MacLaurin has been advised that the Government will not address the situation again before the General Election, yet he is determined that the UKSC must either become a funding distributor, or be given a top-selling off the allocation to the regional councils. They have already expressed their consent to this. At present the UKSC has a derisory budget of just under £12 million.

"With a fair wind and a reasonable government, we will be able to deliver," MacLaurin said on Tuesday, addressing some of the foremost brains in sport. Outstanding addresses had been given by coaches

such as Tom McNab, Frank Dick, Deryk Snelling and John Scott, the UKSC director of international events.

Scott quoted Nelson Mandela's comment that "sport is the most effective means of communication in the modern world". Any government that ignores this is seriously under-informed. MacLaurin, besides being an enthusiast, and also the new chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, has first-hand evidence of public feel-good response to sporting success. The graph of Tesco sales accelerated like an Alan Shearer shot during Euro 96.

The UKSC priorities are:
□ Become a Lottery-funding distributor, so as to be financially independent from regional councils.
□ To target key sports for Olympic medals, with flexibility for outstanding individuals in other less prominent sports.

□ Make management, coaches and competitors personally accountable for their funding.
□ Adopt a vision aimed at the year 2020, not short-term hand-to-mouth.

□ Establish overall control of elite sport, in partnership with the British Olympic Association, placing international success above domestic interests.
□ Create a close working relationship, based on training technology from sports-science and medicine with the three leading national sports, football, cricket and rugby.

□ Create a winning concept without compromising on a strict ethical base.
□ Abolish, if necessary by force, the 30-year-old hierarchical confusion of rival, and largely non-functional bodies such as CCPR and British Sports Forum.

□ Host international events, and give sympathetic taxation attention to international federation headquarters based in Britain.
□ Co-ordinate government foreign policy in relation to sport (heavily developed by other countries).

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Section 2 pages 34, 36 and 37

Henman volleys to another success

[illegible]

A university for flies

Philip Pickett. Sonnets sopra
 Scaria Marica: Magnificat
 1.00pm Opera Matinee:
 Glenside, The British
 broadcast premiere of
 Verdi's 18th opera, recorded
 last year at the Royal College
 of Music in London. With:
 Whittier Larrison, soprano,
 William Purvis, conductor,
 Sally Bruce-Payne, contralto,
 Nick Kennedy, soprano and
 directors Adrian Chandler and
 John Neschke
 5.00 Music Machine: Tommy
 Pearson and conductor Stan
 Chowers try to find out what
 was the first opera
 5.15 In Tune, with Nicola
 Heywood Thomas. Includes

10.45 Night Waves. Including a
 new monthly series, New York
 Stories. Bill Seward, James
 editor of the New Yorker and
 former editor of Granta, presents a personal view of
 American culture. Plus
 Humphrey Carpenter talks to
 Granta editor Ian Jack about
 a vision of contemporary
 writing, and a new writing
 11.30 Composer of the Week:
 Bernstein (1)
 12.30 The Book of David: Dave Gelly
 introduces further excerpts
 from the Stan Tracey 70th
 birthday concert
 1.00 Through the Night, with
 Donald Macleod. Includes
 2.00 Evening Song

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00
 News 6.10 Farming Today
 6.28 Poetry for the Day 6.30
 News 6.35 The 30 Years
 6.50 News 6.55 Face the Facts
 (1)
 9.30 University. See Choice
 9.30 Death on the March (R4)
 Agatha Christie's classic
 mystery. Poirot senses the
 murderer of his second wife.
 With John Moffat and
 Emma Pyle (2/5)
 10.00 Daily Service (LW)
 10.15 This Day
 10.30 Woman's Hour, with Jenni
 Murray
 11.30 From Our Own
 Correspondents
 12.00 News: You and Yours, with
 Clive Cullford
 12.25pm World Wide. Panel
 game exploring words and
 language with chairman,
 Peter Hobbard and guests Joe
 Melia, Lesley King, Annabel
 Cole and Richard Herring
 12.30 Lunch
 1.00 The World at One, with Nick
 Clarke
 1.40 The Archbishops (1) 1.55
 Lunch
 2.00 News: Blood Sugar, by Les
 Hall. Jill is 14-years-old,
 overweight and obsessed
 with food. With Sharon
 Percy and Charles Hinchford
 3.00 News: The Afternoon Shift,
 with Debra Brennan and guests
 3.40 News: 4.05 Kaleidoscope.
 Paul Allen sees Mary
 McDonald's new play The
 Crucible of Inhumanity at the
 National Theatre and reviews
 the new film from the director
 4.45 Short Story: Speeches, by
 Rachel Billington. Read by
 John Hartley

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping 5.55
 Weather
 6.00 Six O'Clock News
 6.30 The Bowlers. A new comedy
 series with Nick Gorton and
 Tim de Faria. Features guest
 stars Patrick Allen and
 George Bush
 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
 7.20 Stories to Nature, John
 Herring explores the natural
 history of our culture
 anthropologist Rob Foley and
 discovers that through most
 of our past we shared the
 planet with other species of
 human (2/3)
 8.00 Liberal Britain on Trial: The
 Welfare State. A mock trial
 challenging the assumptions
 that Britain has held from the
 1950s through to the final
 years of this century, chaired
 by Nick Clarke. For the
 prosecution, Digby Anderson,
 and for the defence, Ben
 Campbell (2/3)
 8.45 The Best of British. A new
 series about residents of
 Lambeth. A white tobacco
 farmer tells his story (1/6)
 9.00 News He Talks Sunday
 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.55
 Weather
 10.00 The World Tonight, with
 Robin Lustig
 10.45 The Redcliffe, Scarlet
 and Black, by Stenholm
 Read by Greg Wise (9/10)
 11.00 British Medicine, with Sharon
 Glass. V. J. borrows some files
 from the Morley Centre
 With Eleanor Ross (6/8)
 11.30 The Art of Travel
 12.00 News 12.30am The Late
 Show: Spell of Winter, by
 Helen Drummond (2/5)
 12.38 Shipping 1.00 AM
 Service

**FREQUENCY GUIDE RADIO 1. FM 87.6-89.8. RADIO 2. FM 82.0-
 92.0. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8. LW 195; MW
 92.0. RWR 4.5-5.5. MW 92.0. WORLD SERVICE. FM 95.6; MW
 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-110. MW 95.6; MW
 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 105.3, 108.9. Television and
 radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary
 Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John Montgomery.**



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MESSIANIC MANAGER WALKS OUT ON NEWCASTLE TO A DEAFENING SILENCE

Keegan abandons his dream team

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

YESTERDAY two of the diminishing breed, the pioneering British adventurers, were brought down to earth almost simultaneously. Kevin Keegan, the Magpie, departed Newcastle United shortly after Richard Branson, the Virgin high-flyer, had his dream flight deflated. Two men of different worlds, both millionaires by their own opportunism, both popularists, and both throwbacks to the spirit of the past, are grounded, temporarily I feel sure.

Keegan's apparently sudden resignation at St James' Park came only with the plausible statement that he had resigned "in the best interests of all concerned... I feel I have taken the club as far as I can".

It would be too simple to read into this that Keegan, emotionally drained, himself shares the growing opinion, the panic, that his cavalier style of football cannot deliver a trophy to Tyneside, even after he has spent £60 million recruiting precious talents from around the world.

Keegan, himself, would never surrender that belief: he had been acquisitive, like a child in the toy shop, except that his toy shop was the global sphere of the international game. He was consumed with Newcastle, its potential and his commitment to attacking style; but he is no fool, and his legacy is a team that beat Manchester United 5-0 in October and thrashed Tottenham Hotspur 7-1 and beat Leeds United 3-0 in its last league games.

One feels that, perhaps liberated from the tension that could be seen growing on him,



Keegan's exit 1
Lynne Truss 5
Man on the edge 5
Photograph 5
Swain's task 42
The stress game 42

the players could now, indeed, be directed to the 1997 FA Carling Premiership title. The class is there, but the defence is negligent and negligible. Newcastle need, though one hates to say it, a touch of pragmatism, a guide who, more tactically aware than Keegan, can withstand the ripostes of opponents and the psychological cunning with which Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, so shamelessly tripped up Keegan this time last year when Newcastle's first championship in seven decades seemed almost a formality.

However, it would be naive to assume that business, very hard-nosed business, does not have a hand in Keegan's leaving. When, in February 1992, he was appointed, Newcastle Breweries and the bank, and the rest of the club directors, virtually held a shotgun to the head of Sir John Hall, the chairman, obliging him to sack Osvaldo Ardiles and appoint Keegan.

Their reasoning was survival. The club, they felt, had one foot in the second division

grave. Keegan, they knew, had the charisma, the Pied Piper effect in the North East, to put 11,000 on the gate. "It was a business decision," Sir John later told me. "and I am a hard businessman."

So, Keegan was the catalyst to regeneration, though he may not have won a major trophy, and may have shown an imbalance towards exotic attacking players — Faustino Asprilla comes first to mind. Would the businessmen be so intolerably wrong if they gambled that a new manager, a Dalglish or even a Cruyff, could yet batten down the defensive hatches and bring home the championship?

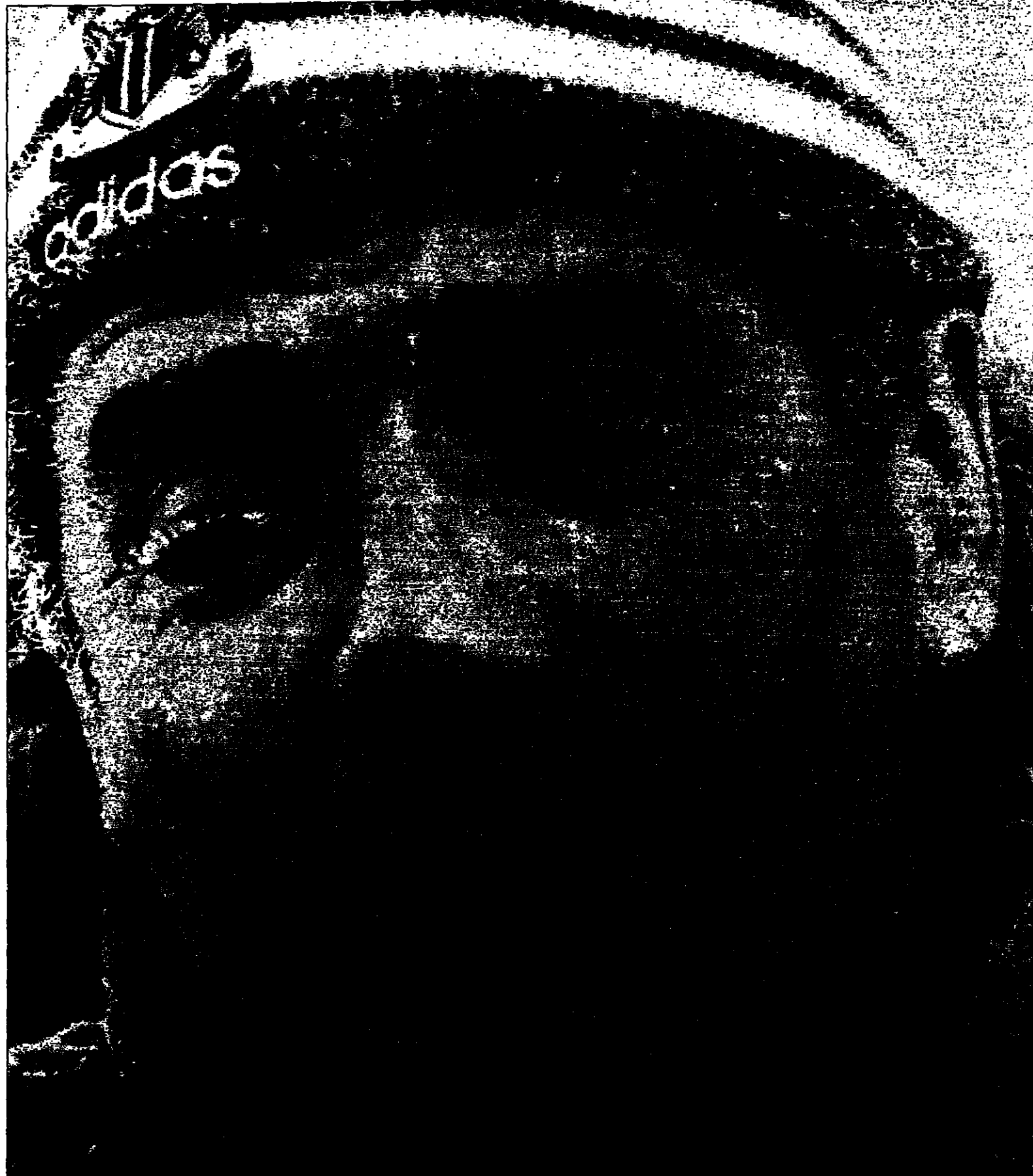
If that scenario has credibility, make no mistake, it is because Keegan was inestimably the right man at the right time five years ago. I recall, earlier than that, Jackie Milburn, a Newcastle United legend in his own lifetime, standing on the steps of St James' and lamenting: "The crowd and players seem poles apart. At one time they were a unit, and this club has no future unless we get that back."

Keegan did that. He hated the word, but he was seen as a messiah. He put those 11,000 on the gate, he transmitted his own extraordinary willpower into performers whose gifts as players may have been bigger than his own. Maybe he was in that sense a manager, rather than a coach, who had one trick, this high-octane ability to motivate, and to keep motivating players even when they knew in their souls that their defence was unplanned, inadequate, untrustworthy.

Journalists are supposed to be unbiased witnesses, but I say without hesitation that watching Kevin Keegan breathe life into Newcastle gave me more enjoyment from a game that is rapidly becoming a business than any other team in the past decade. Yet while so many of us were thrilled by and admired his work, it was becoming incapable that he might not possess the knowledge, the luck, actually to land the prize.

Without that, in the modern winner-take-all arena, all, sadly, is lost. It is a shallow and stupid way of viewing a league in which 20 teams compete and only one can triumph. The Keegan years have ended at Newcastle with the club finishing in the top six of England's top league for four seasons consecutively; Newcastle United had not achieved that since 1910. That is the measure of his influence.

Having spent eight years out of the game, some of it on the golf course in Marbella, much more of it chasing around the world, burning energy as ever in his various business deals, Keegan came back to his game refreshed and ready to burn some more. Those of us paid to meet these managers within seconds of victory or defeat have seen Kenny Dalglish, Steve Coppell and others admit that the emotional inner turmoil just cannot be borne season



Out in the cold: in Lapland last week, Keegan's face betrays the strain that led ultimately to his resignation as the Newcastle manager

after season without respite. It makes Alex Ferguson an exception, a man who for ten years at Manchester United, and for years at Aberdeen before that, actually hungered for the attrition, the obsession of beating all rivals. Ferguson seems to weather it with permanent strength; but Emlyn Hughes, who was a contemporary of Dalglish and Keegan in the Liverpool team, commented yesterday: "Kevin was so bubbly 18 months ago. But he's aged 20 years in the last three months, just as Kenny did at Liverpool and

Blackburn Rovers." The flame consumes them, burns them. But it is high-powered, high-salaried stress. For Newcastle, the vacuum that affects so many people this morning, is the loss of a personality. For Dalglish and Cruyff, both temporarily out of the managerial chair, a call to Tyneside, maybe on a short win-or-bust mission, might prove impossible to ignore. And while Nigeria, of all places, has put Keegan on its list to manage the team to a World Cup triumph, there was a deafening silence, a lack

of style, around Newcastle yesterday. Sir John Hall, the business partner in the Keegan adventure, was reported to be on holiday out of the country. It needed his forthright presence to stand up and assure the faithful that he and the club knew where it was going. No one did: either Keegan's replacement is already in mind, or the standards, Terry McDermott and Arthur Cox, will be asked to give Keegan's team the necessary impetus. The Magpie, and the balloon, are down, but not out.

Dalglish leads chasing pack

By DAVID MADDOCK

DRIVING over the Redheugh Bridge towards St James' Park, the car radio offers still slightly disbelieving tributes to the end of Kevin Keegan's reign at Newcastle United. Suddenly, the skyline is dominated by the imposing edifice of the Newcastle Brewery, the sponsor of the club. A chimney that pierces the gloomy skies emits a plume of pure white smoke.

It was not the cardinals' meeting at St James' but the club's directors, and the head of their brand of passionate religion had not died, even though the reverence and funeral atmosphere in the city yesterday suggested otherwise. But, how ever hard it was to accept, Keegan had tendered his resignation from the position of manager.

It was left to Terry McDermott, his assistant, to attempt to offer an explanation for such a dramatic departure. There would be rumours, he said, about his private life, about his health. But the simple truth of the matter was that Keegan had stopped enjoying management and could not endure the pressure any longer.

Earlier in the day, Keegan had emphasised that it was his decision alone, and he had gone because he felt he could take the club no further. McDermott later hinted that the roots of the decision could be found in the failure to land the title last season.

"There are no secret reasons. The only reasons for Kevin leaving are those that he said himself, and that is the 100 per cent truth," McDermott said. "He wasn't

pushed. Maybe it was burn-out time after five years, there came a time when Kevin had to think about himself and his family. He didn't say it was the pressure as such, but I knew what he was saying, he wanted to take charge of everything, and in the end that took its toll on him."

The bookmakers have Kenny Dalglish as 5-4 favourite, with John Toshack and Johan Cruyff as the next most likely candidates to succeed

Keegan. The suggestion from within the club last night, despite a comment to the contrary from Dalglish, is that the man who succeeded Keegan as a player at Liverpool will do so again as manager at St James'.

Dalglish has taken up a new role with Rangers, but is keen to return to football in more than an advisory job. If offered the post, he will take it. Toshack is being linked strongly, too, but more through circumstance than actual evidence. He revealed at the weekend that he will leave Deportivo La Coruña in Spain, and Sir John Hall, the Newcastle chairman, is holidaying in Spain.

McDermott said: "Whoever follows will not have the same charisma and popularity. There is no one in Europe who could follow him."

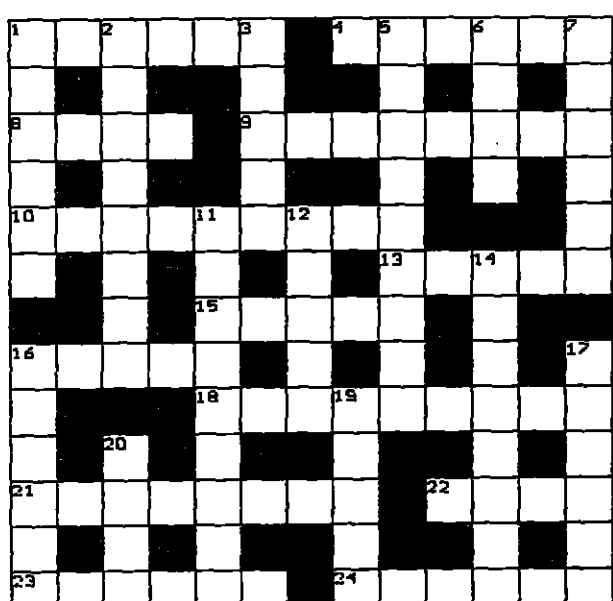
"Myself and Arthur Cox will take over for the time being, but only because Kevin asked us to. He has left us with quality players, and we will try desperately to win something to dedicate to his time as a manager. My own personal opinion is that he will not be coming back." The same was said of Dalglish, but he could be about to disprove such a theory.



A shocked McDermott faces the press yesterday

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ACROSS

- 1 Bound: source (6)
- 4 One recording game progress (6)
- 8 Make one's cross (4)
- 9 Little earth-heap in lawn (8)
- 10 Known only to experts (9)
- 13 British soldier (colloq.) (5)
- 15 Run after (5)
- 16 Bishop's hat (5)
- 18 Impressive public show (9)
- 21 Quixote's lady (8)
- 22 Scot. tribesman; sounds like chise (4)
- 23 Amusement (6)
- 24 Furtive-looking (6)

DOWN

- 1 Unmerciful (6)
- 2 Saying little (8)
- 3 Welsh peninsula: officer of Henry V (5)
- 5 Capable; adequate (9)
- 6 Cut (corn) (4)
- 7 Revolving; charitable club (6)
- 11 Undue (9)
- 12 Bird: lifting device (5)
- 14 Naughty behaviour (8)
- 16 Leaf-attacking fungus (6)
- 17 Mil. guard (6)
- 19 Disorganisation (5)
- 20 Scottish valley (4)

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SOLUTION TO NO 985

ACROSS: 1 Nordic 5 Noble 8 Avid 9 Militant 10 Grievous 12 Hook 13 Merda 15 Arrive 17 Ugly 19 Enriching 21 North Sea 23 Plum 24 Stolen 25 Drivel
DOWN: 2 Obscene 3 Dodge 4 Come of age 5 Nil 6 Butcher 7 Lenin 11 Smart card 14 Crystal 16 Venture 18 Groat 20 Capri 22 Sin

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